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SOUTH AND EAST ASIA REPORT

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BRIEFS

AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE FOR PHILIPPINES--Australian Ambassador Richard Woolcott explained last night the rationale behind Australia's assistance to the Philippines. He told newsmen that Australian aid to the Philippines stems solely from a desire to share in the common endeavors of all to achieve peace and economic growth in the Southeast Asian region. Mr Woolcott said the present target of Australian aid to the Philippines is to assist in the development of rural areas in Samar and Western Mindanao in the central and southern Philippines. Ambassador Woolcott has recently been awarded the "1981 achiever" award by southern Philippine journalists. [Text] [HK110058 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 0030 GMT 11 Dec 81]

CSO: 4220/134

BRIEFS

HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SOLOMONS ISLANDS--Canberra, 27 Nov (AFP)--Australia's new high commissioner to the Solomon Islands will be Mr Tom Sofield. He will succeed Mr R. G. Irwin. The Department of Foreign Affairs said Australia and the Solomon Islands enjoyed warm, close and substantial relations. [Excerpt] [BK281017 Hong Kong AFP in English 0837 GMT 27 Nov 81]

JAPAN'S COAL PROJECT APPROVED--The Federal Government has given approval to the Japanese Government to establish a brown coal liquefaction pilot plant in Victoria's Latrobe valley. The approval is subject to Australia being offered 50 percent equity in the project if it extends beyond pilot stage. The pilot plant is being developed under the control of a Japanese Government agency--the New Energy Development Organization--but construction and operation is being contracted out to a consortium of Japanese companies. Go-ahead for the scheme was made under the Federal Government's foreign investment policy. [Text] [BK281017 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Nov 81]

COOPER BASIN OIL FIND--A new flow of oil has been reported from a well in the Queensland section of the Cooper Basin. The exploration operator for the Cooper Basin partners--Delhi Petroleum--says oil has flowed again from the (Jackson) No 1 well at a fairly modest rate of 200 barrels a day. It is from a depth of about 200 meters below the first oil strike in (Jackson) No 1, which is the first well in the Queensland part of the basin to produce oil. The earlier flow was at a rate of about 350 barrels a day. A spokesman for Delhi says the second flow is significant because it comes from a different depth. But it is not yet known if it will improve the well's commercial prospects. [Excerpt] [BK031315 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Nov 81]

MINING PROFITS DROP--A survey has shown a substantial drop in the profitability of the Australian mining industry during the financial year ending last June. The survey by the Australian Mining Industry Council shows profits dropped by 34 percent. The council blamed the decline on weak world demand, lower metal prices, adverse movements in exchange rates and strikes. The report shows capital expenditure in the mining sector last financial year was \$1,558 million. This was more than double the previous year's amount. Companies forecast a further rise in expenditure to nearly \$3,000 million this financial year. [Text] [BK091335 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Dec 81]

BIGGEST ONSHORE OIL FIND--A consortium of companies has struck another oil flow of 2,500 barrels a day in a well it is drilling in the Cooper Basin of southwest Queensland. This brings the total flow of the well to 4,000 barrels a day making it the biggest onshore discovery in Australia. [Excerpt] [BK091335 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Dec 81]

HIGH COMMISSIONER TO JAMAICA--Canberra, 14 Dec (AFP)--A seasoned Australian diplomat, Ronald Little, has been appointed Australia's new high commissioner to Jamaica, it was reported here today. Foreign Minister Tony Street said Mr Little, 45, has served in Tokyo, Vientiane, Dacca and Beijing. He will take up his appointment in January 1982. Mr Street said the appointment of this senior officer indicates Australia's wish to retain warm and friendly relations with Jamaica. Mr Little succeeds Mr G. N. Bilney. [Text] [BK150941 Hong Kong AFP in English 0714 GMT 14 Dec 81]

OIL EXPLORATION IN NORTHERN TERRITORY--The northern territory is on the brink of a massive oil and gas exploration program which could cost A\$700 million, that is about U.S.\$800 million, over the next 6 years. Details of the program was given by the territory's mines and energy minister, Mr Tuxworth. Mr Tuxworth said that two oil rigs were now sinking wells in the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf, west of Darwin, where large noncommercial gas fields had been discovered previously. The minister said that by depending on the result of seismic surveys, between 6 and 16 offshore wells could be sunk next year and more than 40 over the next 6 years. Mr Tuxworth said that onshore exploration in the northern territory was expected to be even more intensive with 5 wells being drilled next year and up to 80 more by 1986. [Text] [BK150941 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Dec 81]

OVERSEAS RESERVES FALL--Canberra, 10 Dec (AFP)--Australian overseas reserves fell by A\$371 million during November, compared with a rise of A\$32 million in October 1981. These official statistics were released today by the reserve bank of Australia which said there was a fall of A\$173 million in the holdings of Australia's official reserve assets during November, compared with a fall of A\$480 million in September and a rise of A\$40 million in October. The reserve bank places Australian gold reserves at A\$2,848 million in the overall table of official reserve assets of A\$4,156 million. The Australian dollar has devalued by 4 percent against the trade weight basket of the authorities since August, but has revalued 2 percent against the U.S. dollar. [BK140541 Hong Kong AFP in English 0859 GMT 10 Dec 81]

CSO: 4220/134

BRIEFS

INTELLIGENCE CHIEFS' APPOINTMENTS--The State Council has appointed Col Kyaw Tun, BC/6875, [former ambassador to Thailand] currently attached to the Prime Minister's Office in the post of Chief of Intelligence of the National Intelligence Bureau [NIB] as chief of intelligence of the office of the NIB from the date he assumes charge of his duties. [Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 13 Nov 81 p 4 BK] The State Council has appointed Col Kan Nyunt, BC/7894, director of Defense Service Intelligence, Ministry of Defense, as a member of the Supervisory Committee for Guiding and Leading the National Intelligence Bureau. [Text] [BK031311 Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 14 Nov 81 p 4]

AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS--The president of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma has appointed Zeya Kyaw Htin [honorific title] U Maung Maung Nyunt, Burmese ambassador to the FRG, as ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. [BK150913 Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 4 Dec 81 p 1] The president of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma has appointed Y Myo Aung, Burmese ambassador to the United Kingdom, concurrently as ambassador to Norway and to Sweden. [BK140913 Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 9 Dec 81] The President of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma [SRUB] has appointed U Hla Swe, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the SRUB to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, concurrently as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the SRUB to the Hungarian People's Republic. [Text] [BK150913 Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 8 Dec 81 p 1]

AMBASSADORS TO ROK, ITALY--The president of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma has appointed Zeya Kyaw Htin [honorific title] U Kyi Naung, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Burma to Japan, concurrently as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Burma to the Republic of Korea. [Text] [BK061237 Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 25 Nov 81 p 1] The President of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma has appointed Zeya Kyaw Htin U Kyi, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Burma to Malaysia, as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Burma to the Republic of Italy. [Text] [BK061237 Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 25 Nov 81 p 1]

KAREN REBELS AMBUSH TROOPS--Tak--At least 100 Burmese Government troops were killed and wounded when they were ambushed by Karen rebels in border area opposite Mae Sot District here on Monday, according to an intelligence report reaching Bangkok yesterday. The report said the ambush was followed by sporadic clashes on Tuesday and yesterday. It said that about 500 Burmese Government troops moved out from

Rangpoi Province toward Ban Ta Kerpo and a unit of the army advanced toward Ban Ba Kor, opposite Mae Sot District. The government troops which went to Ban Ba Kor were ambushed by around 1,000 Karen rebels, reportedly armed with M-16, AK-47 assault rifles and M-79 grenade launchers. One of the commanders of the Burmese troops was also killed in the battle but he was not identified, it said. According to the report, several thousands of Burmese Government troops have been mobilized since the middle of this month on search-and-destroy missions against the Karen rebels in areas near the Thai-Burmese border. [Text] [BK260337 Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 26 Nov 81 p 1]

CSO: 4220/134

SOLOK EXPLAINS PARLIAMENTARY APPOINTMENTS

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 31 Oct 81 pp 1, 12

[Article: "Questions and Answers in the Third KNPI Congress Regarding the Appointment of a Portion of the Members of Parliament"]

[Excerpts] Minister/State Secretary Sudharmono denied that the appointment of one-third of the members of parliament was intended to insure that the presidential position is converted into a life-long position. The view had been expressed that the appointments would pave the way for the reelection of the current president.

Sudharmono's denial was expressed on Friday morning [30 October] to participants in the third KNPI [Indonesian National Youth Committee] at the Senayan hall where parliamentary sessions are held in Jakarta.

Responding to a question from a participant, Sudharmono said that what lay behind the appointments was merely the need to safeguard Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution by using article 37 of the 1945 Constitution. That article states that changes in the 1945 Constitution are permissible if a parliamentary session is attended by two-thirds of its members and if two-thirds of those attending agree to the changes.

The appointment of one-third of the parliamentary members is in accord with the consensus achieved between the chief of state and political party and GOLKAR leaders early in the New Order period. The basis for the consensus was the need to safeguard the 1945 Constitution and Pancasila with article 37 of the Constitution. The purpose was to prevent the voting in, during a general election, of parliament members, two-thirds of whom would like to change the 1945 Constitution. If this were the purpose, then when one-third plus one member do not participate in the discussion aimed at changing the 1945 Constitution, "it merely guarantees that the 1945 Constitution will not be changed," the minister remarked.

Because ABRI is judged to have the Sapta Marga oath which includes, among other things, swearing to defend the 1945 Constitution and Pancasila, then one-third of the appointed Parliament members are members of ABRI [Indonesian Armed Forces], he added.

Meanwhile, within the framework of Sewindu [8-year cycle] KNPI and commemorating the Youth Oath, a photography and poster exhibit opened on Friday evening in the

Senayan session hall. Information Minister Ali Murtopo was to have opened the affair but could not. Soekarno, director general for building up the press and graphics, represented him.

The participants were informed by the committee that the information minister was unable to attend because of illness. Akbar Tanjung added that Minister Ali Murtopo had to have a week's "bed rest."

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CSO: 4213/15

PPLH AND KADIN TO COOPERATE AGAINST CORRUPTION

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 31 Oct 81 pp 1, 12

[Article: "Government and KADIN Agree to Cooperate in Handling Corruption"]

[Excerpts] The Indonesian government and KADIN (Chamber of Commerce and Industry) have agreed to cooperate in organizing a system which will handle corruption problems. The system, which is to be formed immediately, will attempt to forestall as far as possible situations which create opportunities for businessmen to bribe government officials or prevent government officials themselves from resorting to bribery.

The agreement was achieved between Emil Salim, minister of state for supervision of development and environment (PPLH), and the Industries Compartment of KADIN, headed by Drs F.H. Eman, on Friday [30 October] in the office of the PPLH minister. This cooperative agreement between government and businessmen is the first of its kind for handling corruption.

Initially Minister Salim requested KADIN to devise a system to handle businessmen who often offer bribes since government officials not only are guilty of accepting bribes but businessmen are also guilty of attempting to bribe government officials. "We in the government have had our own system for controlling government officials, which is continually being improved. We now hope KADIN will also organize an apparatus which will prevent its members from resorting to bribery," Emil Salim said.

However, businessmen tried to convince Minister Salim that they often find it hard not to bribe officials because of the measures taken against them by government officials.

Moreover the businessmen who met with Emil Salim feel that businessmen who become dishonest in their dealings do so because they run into difficulties in developing their businesses. The major error is not committed by the businessmen who offers the bribe, rather the fault lies with the government bureaucratic system which often forces the businessman to offer a bribe if he does not want his business ruined.

Minister Salim apparently was not convinced of this. He then proposed that any time a businessman is forced to offer a bribe, the matter should be reported immediately to the government official's superior. If this does not clear up the matter, it should be reported to a more senior official.

The businessmen responded by saying that this had been done but no results were achieved. Much time is wasted because senior officials do not want to meet with them and continually postpone such meetings so that the businessmen get fed up with wasting time. Moreover if the government officials become aware of these reports to their superiors, the situation worsens for the businessmen.

"The primary fault rests with the system of government service which forces the businessmen into devious activities," said the KADIN members.

It becomes a test of endurance. The businessman is certain to lose in the end because he suffers financial loss while the official loses nothing whatsoever since he is merely relieved of his responsibilities.

Emil Salim also proposed that such matters be reported to the inspector general's office of the respective departments since this office does not concern itself with affairs of an executive nature and therefore is not directly involved in the problems faced by businessmen. He hoped that a more objective view could thus be obtained, but apparently the businessmen were also doubtful that this would be the case. They doubted that there were no ties between that office and the executive side.

The minister also asked the businessmen not to feel that they had to express their gratitude to officials by offering them gift items, since their appreciation should be expressed not only to the administrator who performs the service but to all members of the government agencies involved. "An official is unable to do his work without the assistance of his subordinates," Emil Salim said.

Minister Salim will pay heed when KADIN submits a black list of businessmen who are KADIN members and who indulge in devious activities. However that black list will not be taken at face value by Emil Salim because he is concerned that there are competitive elements and an innocent businessman can be tagged for the black list.

The idea of a black list had been put forward by Dr Hasyim Ning, the KADIN general chairman, who said that preferably, to prevent devious activities by businessmen, the government should deal only with businessmen who are KADIN members while KADIN will try to clean up its membership. If it becomes known that certain businessmen indulge in devious activities, they will be placed on a black list and expelled from KADIN membership which also means that the government will not deal with them.

However, Emil Salim would not agree to the government dealing solely with KADIN members because, he said, KADIN has not yet been established in all of the regencies. If he agreed to Hasyim Ning's request, it would mean that the government would not deal with businessmen in the regencies in which KADIN itself has said it had no branches. "KADIN should not operate solely in the center but must also build a membership in the outlying areas within the framework of equalization," Salim said.

However, in the meeting between Emil Salim and the businessmen no agreement was reached that KADIN would definitely establish a black list because the government must state that it will deal only with KADIN members before such a black list can be drawn up.

Another meeting will be held on 20 November to discuss the system to be implemented. This system consists of cooperation between PPLH and businessmen and the government agencies concerned. Under this system efforts will be made to keep the names of businessmen involved in a case from being mentioned.

SUDOMO DISCUSSES SURABAYA, BANDA ACEH INCIDENTS

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 31 Oct 81 pp 1, 12

[Article: "PANGKOPKAMTIB Presents Clarification on the Surabaya and Banda Aceh Affairs"]

[Excerpts] Admiral Sudomo, KOPKAMTIB [Command for the Restoration of Security and Order] commander, said he had received a report on the Surabaya "10 November Stadium case." He had also spoken directly with the commander of the military district command and the LAKSUSDA [regional special executive officer] as well as the chief of the East Java Police District, and the matter has been transferred to the local LAKSUSDA for handling.

Responding to a question posed by newsmen in Jakarta on Friday [30 October], Admiral Sudomo said in this case the fault rests with the committee that handled the test to screen candidates for employment in the East Java Regional Justice Department. "I know the committee acted improperly. They invited these people to come, knew there were technical errors, and did not give the test."

Nevertheless, Sudomo added, this does not mean the public can take justice into its own hands. These people do not have to do things that violate the law and set fires everywhere. "Of course they can be angry, but they must keep cool heads," the COPKAMTIB commander said.

Responding to a question, Admiral Sudomo said there are no indications that another element is involved in the Surabaya case. He judged that the incident resulted merely from pent-up feelings. "Nevertheless this had not been confirmed," he added.

Sudomo said that no one has been arrested in the case as of now, but the committee is under investigation by the police. He said no comment is permitted on statements made by the committee about the participants in the test.

Concerning a question on the "Banda Aceh case," Admiral Sudomo replied that initially this was an ordinary affair, but it turned into one with mass participation. "However the case has been settled, and there are no further problems," he said.

Three things happened in the Banda Aceh case. Sudomo said the first incident occurred on 25 October at 1300 on Diponegoro Street. A sidewalk vendor named

Nuradin Pelor operating in front of a shop owned by Alex, an Indonesian citizen of Chinese extraction, suddenly was doused with water from the upper story of the building.

Nuridin Pelor became angry and cried out harshly against the provocation. The masses then reacted and threw stones at Alex's shop.

The second incident occurred on 26 October at the Expo garage on Sheik Moh Yani Street. It began on 19 October when the older brother of a person named Zakaria brought his Vespa in to the garage for repair. On 26 October Zakaria returned to the shop and a quarrel broke out with Achin because Zakaria said Achin had installed the wrong Vespa part. This was followed by a fight.

People in the surrounding area saw the fight and threw stones at the garage and at the shops on either side of it. The situation was taken in hand immediately.

The third incident occurred at 2100 also on 26 October. Stones were thrown at the "Happy" radio shop. According to Sudomo, the perpetrators have been arrested and the situation also is in hand.

A similar incident occurred in Sala several days earlier, Sudomo said, but there was a deliberate "blackout" on the news of this affair in the papers. It was imposed only in order to be able to settle the problem locally without inviting further reaction.

Sudomo called on the public to report similar incidents immediately to the responsible authorities. "When this happens, we will arrest both sides in order to settle the matter and prevent it from spreading," Sudomo said.

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CSO: 4213/15

WEST GERMANY OFFERS AID TO SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 30 Oct 81 p 2

[Article: "West Germany Offers Aid to Indonesian Shipbuilding Industry"]

[Excerpts] Preparations are underway in Indonesia to develop a shipbuilding industry that will be capable of meeting sea transport requirements and maintaining the entire fleet by the end of REPELITA IV [fourth five-year development plan] in 1989. Also needed are support industries that can supply materials and components for the shipbuilding industry.

Eman Yogasara, director general for the basic metals industry, by way of encouraging West German shipbuilders and outfitters, said that Indonesia has shown great interest in German marine equipment. He also said that, other than drydocks, Indonesia would like to have support industries that could manufacture engines, shafts, electrical equipment, parts for engines, pumps, compressors, pneumatic components, separators, steering components, port equipment, anchors, safety equipment, and other components.

Yogasagara said shipbuilding is one of the 17 key projects in the basic metals industrial sector and is one of 30 key industrial projects which will be completed during REPELITA IV. At present most marine equipment is imported. In Indonesia 17 companies are capable of manufacturing marine equipment such as anchors, propellers, zinc anodes, lifeboats, cables, heavy rope and marine hardware.

H.J. Uckley, leader of the West German Businessmen's delegation, which held a symposium in Jakarta, explained to newsmen on Wednesday [29 October] that the West German businessmen in the group he heads would like to assist Indonesia in developing a shipbuilding industry suitable to Indonesia's needs.

The Agency for Technological Education and Application (BPPT) told the West German businessmen that Indonesia will need more than 1 million dwt tons of interisland ships, 212,000 dwt tons of interisland tankers, and 3.3 million dwt tons of oceangoing vessels during REPELITA IV. In fiscal 1981 Indonesia was only able to accept government orders for 101 units, consisting of various types of barges, pilot boats, tugboats, trawlers, coastal vessels, landing craft, and ferries. All are made in Indonesia.

It noted that Indonesia's shipbuilding industry obtains facilities for its development, such as the duty-free import of basic materials and relief from paying sales taxes on ship repair.

Indonesia now has 104 drydocks with an annual capacity of 45,355 tons and 136 drydocks for ship repair with an annual capacity of 581,112 tons.

The symposium on marine equipment is being held for 2 days in Jakarta and is handled by the West German Association of Ship Component and Ship Construction Companies and Owners (VDMA). It is attended by some 200 Indonesian shipbuilding specialists, the Indonesian Shipbuilding Industry (IPERINDO), and government representatives. West German industrialists have held symposia in several Asian countries to promote their industry.

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CSO: 4213/15

IMPROVEMENTS IN RAIL, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT OUTLINED

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 2 Nov 81 p 2

[Article: "Installation of New PJKA Executive Director"]

[Excerpts] On Saturday [31 November] Roesmin Nurjadin, minister of communications, installed Eng Sudjono Kramadibrata as executive director of the Indonesian State Railway Company replacing Eng Pantiarso.

On that occasion Minister Nurjadin pointed out that Indonesian railways were a cause for concern during PELITA I [first five-year development plan]. There were very few and very old freight and passenger cars, and there were only 272 locomotives.

The situation has improved gradually, and we now have 564 locomotives. This is an increase of 107 percent. In 1969 there were only 10 pairs of diesel engines; now there are 48. The number of passenger cars rose from 870 in 1969 to 1,105 in 1980.

In the JABOTABEK (Jakarta-Bogor-Tangerang-Bekasi) region, the communications minister said, the role of the railroad is continually being developed. A new 17-km line from Meneng to Dadapen to Banyuwangi will be built in the near future.

Touching on the role of telecommunications, Minister Roesmin pointed out that its role in reducing distances is of increasing benefit. In 1976 there were only 262,446 telephone lines. In 1980 there are 598,622.

Compared with other ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] member nations, the number of telephones in Indonesia in 1978 was considered to be low, 0.2 per 100 population. For Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand it is 2.9, 1.3, 19.6, and 0.8 per 100 population, respectively.

The demands for telephones in Indonesia by 1989, according to the method used by ESCAP (UN Social-Economic Council for Asia and the Pacific), will rise to 1.736 million lines. This is a rather large increase.

At the end of the installation ceremony, Eng Pantiarso, the former PJKA executive director, was prevented from communicating with newsmen who asked him for the impressions he gained as head of the state railway company.

This official was installed in March 1978, replacing Eng Soemali. Eng Pantiarso was known as an honest and modest official. Nevertheless a certain group evaluated him as a director who in many respects "gave in" to his staff. Perhaps it was for this reason that he was judged to be "lacking in authority."

Roesmin Nurjadin also installed Ngurah Oka as director of supply for PERUMTEL [Telecommunications Corporation], Drs Iwa Sewaka as PERUMTEL supply director [as published], and J. Soetopo Martodihardjo as chief of the Supply Bureau for the Communications Department.

6804

CSOL 4213/15

BRIEFS

COUNTRY 'OUT OF DANGER'—Manila, 4 Nov (AFP)—The International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) today officially declared Kampuchea "out of danger," after almost two years of one of the world's most massive relief operations to a country, then on the verge of "virtual extinction." In a report submitted to delegates to the general assembly of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, now meeting in Manila, the ICRC said the Cambodian people were now "over the worst and the spectre of famine had receded." The Red Cross, however, appealed for continued aid and assistance in addition to more than 500 million U.S. dollars spent since 1979 to avert the possibility that the troubled Indochinese country would "slip back." Severe political problems continue, the ICRC report said. The report cited that the 1980-81 rice crop in Kampuchea was more than double that of the previous year and 1.5 million children are back at school. A majority of refugees who reached the Thai border in the later months of 1979 have returned home, the report said. The report capped 15-months of relief and rescue work in Kampuchea by a joint ICRC and UNICEF team. The UNICEF had led other international agencies in the Cambodian bail out. [Text] [BK041550 Hong Kong AFP in English 0756 GMT 4 Nov 81]

CSO: 4220/145

LAO PARTY, STATE LEADERS RECEIVE GDR MESSAGE

BK310353 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 31 Oct 81

[Text] Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and premier of the LPDR, and Comrade Souphanouvong, president of the LPDR and of the Supreme People's Council [SPS], recently received a message of thanks from Comrade Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] and chairman of the GDR Council of State; Comrade Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers; and Comrade Horst Sindermann, president of the People's Chamber of the GDR. The message reads as follows:

On behalf of the Central Committee of the SED, the Council of Ministers, the People's Chamber and the GDR people and in our own names, we extend thanks to you, the LPRP Central Committee, the Government and the SPC and the people of the LPDR for conveying cordial greetings to us on the occasion of the 32d anniversary of the establishment of the GDR.

We are profoundly convinced that the existing fraternal relations between the two parties, countries and peoples and our solidarity and friendship will be further consolidated and developed on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

May you, comrades, be assured that the GDR party, Government and people will resolutely and firmly stand side by side with the Lao friends.

CSO: 4206/12

VIENTIANE RECOUNTS EXPLOITS OF MUANG PEK COMPANY

BK101212 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0400 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Feature: "Heroic Soldiers of Muang Pek District"]

[Summary] Faced with the ferocious war of aggression waged by the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen, the LPLA Supreme Command and the party committee and military command of Xieng Houang Province established a company composed of forces from the Muang Pek District in April 1966. In 1968, the company was reorganized and more men were attached to it. The company was then assigned to carry out guerrilla activities in the district. They were divided into three platoons to carry out independence operations from the Nong Pet junction to Nam Khan, as well as in the Phou Tiw, Phou San, Phou Laktai, Phou Kout Noi mountains, Mouang Song and other areas. They managed to put many enemy troops out of action and destroyed several hundred tons of war materials during these operations.

"In 1969, the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen mustered more than 50 battalions supported by the U.S. Air Force to launch an adventurous operation codenamed 'Koukiat' against the Xieng Khouang region for the purpose of destroying our people's property and lives." The operation created numerous untold difficulties to the Xieng Khouang regional forces, including the Muang Pek District Company.

However, the Muang Pek District soldiers launched a counterattack against the enemy forces in the Phou Viang area, putting a large number of enemy troops out of action in the course of several skirmishes. They also victoriously intercepted and crushed the enemy troops in the Phou Pha Tek area in Xieng Khouang Province. They were later assigned to operate in Piang Canton and engaged in a fierce fighting with the enemy for nearly 3 months. They subsequently launched mop-up operations to attack and destroy enemy bandit nests in Phou Koum, Bouam Long, Phou Keun and other areas.

"The Muang Pek District soldiers engaged in more than 100 skirmishes with the enemy in these areas, killing 224 enemy troops, capturing and wounding some 100 others, liberating 620 local people from the enemy control, and seizing 480 firearms and more than 10 tons of ammunition."

Because of its dedication in consolidating and strengthening its organization and capabilities in all respects, the Muang Pek District Company was assigned to the command of the Xieng Khouang Provincial Military Command in June 1979.

CSO: 4206/12

VIENTIANE ON CONSTRUCTION OF ROUTE 9 HIGHWAY

BK071612 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1000 GMT 4 Dec 81

[Feature by a station reporter on a visit to highway construction unit 923]

[Summary] On a jeep ride from Savannakhet provincial town along a 150 km stretch on Route 9 highway, we met several groups of road construction workers attached to various companies, such as the irrigation company No 1, the bridge and highway construction unit and the irrigation company No 2.

Route 9 highway is more than 250 km long when it reaches the SRV border. The construction of this highway is divided among five departments. The bridge construction department is responsible for constructing five main bridges--the Se Tang Soi bridge, the Se (Koun Tan) bridge, the Se Pha Muak bridge and the Se Bang Hiang bridge with aid from several socialist countries. The Se Tang Soi bridge, which was constructed with aid from Bulgaria, is capable of handling a 100-ton load.

The highway is divided into four sections for construction by four companies. The first section, from Savannakhet provincial town to Donghen, is being constructed by the irrigation company No 1; the second section, from Donghen to Se (Koun Tan), by the irrigation company No 2; the third section, from Se (Koun Tan) to Tha Khong by construction unit 923; and the last section, from Sepon to the Vietnamese border, by a Vietnamese engineer corps. No section is more than 60 km long.

The construction of Route 9 highway began in late 1980. The construction crews have encountered numerous dangers, for this route was heavily bombed by the U.S. imperialists during the war. With close technical supervision from Soviet experts, some 1,000 workers at construction unit 923 are able to carry out their work very well.

CSO: 4206/12

DPRK LEADERS GREET COUNTERPARTS ON NATIONAL DAY

BK140400 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee and president of the DPRK, has sent a greetings message to Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee, and Comrade Souphanouvong, president of the LPDR. The message reads as follows:

On the occasion of the sixth founding anniversary of the LPDR, on behalf of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee, the DPRK Government, the Korean people and in my own name, I would like to convey my heartiest greetings to you, comrades, and through you, to the LPRP Central Committee, the LPDR Government and the fraternal Lao people.

After the establishment of the LPDR, the Lao people embarked on the road of socialist construction. They have achieved great successes in doing away with the consequences of the former colonialist domination through building their national economy and developing their culture by implementing both social and economic transformations. The various successes achieved by the Lao people in building a new life and a new society following the achievement of sovereignty in Laos under the leadership of the LPRP, with Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan as head, are considered glorious successes forever recorded in the history of the Lao people.

The Korean people wish the fraternal Lao people ever greater success in the implementation of the first 5-year plan in its next stage. The peoples of Korea and Laos have in the past maintained close relations of friendship amid the common struggle against imperialism. On this occasion, I would like to express my conviction that the friendly relations between the two peoples of Korea and Laos will continue to be consolidated and developed.

On the same occasion, Comrade Ho Tan, vice premier and minister of foreign affairs of the DPRK, also sent a greetings message to Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, vice premier and minister of foreign affairs of the LPDR.

CSO: 4206/12

LPLA ORDER OF BATTLE ON THAI BORDER NOTED

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 17 Sep 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Laos has sent eight battalions to the Thai border at Nan, facing the 1st Cavalry Division, Forward, which is heavily engaged in suppressing guerrillas in that area.

The report states that the Thai border situation in Nan Province is unsettling since Laos sent so large a number of troops to be stationed in that vicinity, on the north and northeast of the province. There are 11 places where foreign forces can enter Thai territory.

The detailed report on the eight Lao battalions gives their position in the province of Hasa, or the former Sayaboury, of Laos. They consist of the 410th Battalion located at Camp Lachakoun under the command of Thao Samrit, the 402nd Battalion at Ban Nakok, the 415th Battalion at Camp Kouchiang under the command of Col Sangvan, the 404th Battalion at Camp Pong Vang under the command of Thao Bounleut, the 413th Battalion at Ban Pak Neun under the command of Comrade Thongthat, the 411th Battalion at Ban Na Kok, the 412th Battalion at Camp Houa To under the command of Thao Bounleut, and the 423rd Battalion located at UP 4580 under the command of Lt Col Somdi Chanthamit.

The Lao troops are stationed opposite the Thai forces while the 1st Cavalry Division, Forward, is in the process of clearing out the guerrillas of the Thai Liberation Army, which for the most part is made up of the Hmong and Lwa tribal groups.

During the past two months in the sweep against the Thai Liberation Army forces the Thai troops were able to destroy four Thai Liberation Army companies of the total of 11 companies, inflicting casualties of 30 killed, more than 200 injured, with over 200 surrendering. This was one part of the operational plan "Nan Power," which used a very large number of forces during a 7-year period.

The Thai army has prepared a complete defense.

9615

CSO: 4207/3

ALBANIAN, ROMANIAN LEADERS GREET LAO NATIONAL DAY

BK121320 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] On 1 December, Comrade Enver Hoxha, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Albanian Workers' Party, Comrade Haxhi Lleshi, chairman of the presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, and Comrade Mehmet Shehu, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, jointly sent a congratulatory message to Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, secretary general of the LPRP Central Committee and LPDR premier, and Comrade Souphanouvong, president of the LPDR. The message reads:

On the occasion of the sixth founding anniversary of the LPDR, on behalf of the Albanian people, the AWP Central Committee, the presidium of the People's Assembly and the Council of Ministers of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, and in our own names, we would like to extend our warm congratulations and salutation to you, comrades, and to the Lao people.

The Albanian people have closely followed the achievements scored by the Lao people, and wish them many more successes in the course of national development for a better life and safeguarding of national independence against the imperialist superpowers. We hope that the relations of friendship between the peoples of the two countries will be further developed in the future.

On the same occasion, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Comrade Ilie Verdet, prime minister, and Comrade Nicolae Giosan, chairman of the Grand National Assembly of the Socialists Republic of Romania, jointly sent a greetings message to Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, secretary general of the LPRP Central Committee and LPDR premier, and Comrade Souphanouvong, president of the LPDR and president of the SPC.

The message reads:

On the occasion of the sixth founding anniversary of the LPDR, on behalf of the Romanian Communist Party, the Grand National Assembly, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania, the Romanian people and in our own names, we would like to extend our sincere congratulations to you, comrades, and to the LPRP, the SPC, the LPDR Government and the fraternal Lao people.

After carrying out a struggle full of patriotic and revolutionary spirit for several years, the Lao people scored victories over the domination of the imperialists and internal reactionaries, and subsequently founded the LPDR. They have contributed every creative effort in building a new socialist society and in building Laos into a peaceful and independent country.

On the basis of the spirit of internationalist solidarity, the Romanian people have rendered fruitful assistance to the Lao people's struggle for national liberation, have a high respect for the founding of LPDR.

On this occasion, I would like to pledge to you that thorough our reciprocal efforts in the spirit of high-level cooperation, the relations of friendship and solidarity between our two parties and countries will be consistently developed for the sake of the well-being of the Romanian and Lao peoples, the general interests of the socialist system, independence and freedom for all nations, and peace and international cooperation.

On the occasion of the LPDR national day, we wish you and the Lao people under the leadership of the LPRP, new successes in the socialist construction.

At the same time, Comrade Nesti Nase, foreign affairs minister of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, and Comrade Stefan Andrei, foreign affairs minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania, also sent greetings messages to Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, LPDR vice premier and foreign affairs minister.

CSO: 4206/12

PHOUMI VONGVICHIT INTERVIEWED ON EDUCATION

OW280941 Hanoi VNA in English 0701 GMT 28 Nov 81

[Text] Hanoi, 28 Nov (VNA)—Education has been one of the most brilliant achievements of Laos in the past five years. A rundown of these achievements was given to the pictorial magazine VIETNAM, on the occasion of the close of the 1980-1981 school-year in an interview with Phoumi Vingvichit, Political Bureau member of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, vice-premier and minister of education, sport and religious affairs. Following is Phoumi Vongvichit's answers:

During the last five years, along with many other successes of the new system, education has obtained outstanding achievements and has become the basis for fostering a new-type socialist man.

We have in the main done away with the neo-colonialist education while building and developing a nation-wide system of education with a marked national, scientific and popular character. The Lao language has become a teaching medium at all levels of education, including higher education. The Marxist-Leninist theory and ideology has become a main subject in the education programme.

To the Lao people of various ethnic groupings in both the plains and the mountain areas, education has become a mass movement. The literacy and complementary education movement has vigorously developed in all public offices, factories and villages under diversified and appropriate forms. Hundreds of thousands of people are following complementary education courses organised at provincial and district levels, or at special schools for workers, peasants and young people of ethnic minorities or at part-time classes for workers and public employees. An eleven-year general education system has been uniformly enforced in the whole country. General and vocational education is also developing steadily. With regard to enrolment, compared with pre-liberation days, the increase is twofold for primary schools, sixfold for junior high schools, elevenfold for senior high schools and nearly fivefold for vocational schools.

In the recent 1980-81 academic year, education continued to make headway. Illiteracy has been eradicated in four of Laos' thirteen provinces. Four other provinces are trying to eradicate illiteracy in the not distant future. Almost 336,000 adults are attending complementary education classes. Apart from the complementary education school for workers and peasants run by the Ministry of Education, other complementary schools (full-time, part-time or in service) are multiplying at public offices and also in the localities. Rapid progress has also been recorded at infant classes and creches.

General education continues to develop with enrolments totalling more than half a million. Most of the villages have been provided with junior high schools, and many districts already have their senior high schools. The whole country now has 44 such schools with 14,500 students, up by 45 percent over the 1979-80 school-year and five times as many as the first school-year after liberation (1975).

Vocational and higher education has also made substantial progress in both quantity and quality. Former vocational schools have been reorganised and their programmes reformed to ensure better association of study with production and social life. The Lao Government has signed co-operation agreements with the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic, Vietnam and many international organizations for the supply of modern equipment to the school and the building of the first middle-level polytechnic of Laos.

We have paid special attention to the training and fostering of teachers, the decisive work to promote education, compared with the previous year, the number of teachers of primary education rose by 27.2 percent, that of junior high schools 23.68 percent, that of infant schools 18 percent.... Along with the improvement of the management and equipment of the teachers' schools the state has made big efforts to raise the teachers' political, ideological and professional standards. It has also decreed and enforced policies and regimes for teachers and mobilised the assistance of the various branches and the population aimed at gradually improving their living conditions.

In the field of education, Vietnam extended its assistance and co-operation to us even before Laos was completely liberated. Following our country's total liberation (December 2, 1975) Vietnam has considerably increased this co-operation and assistance. It has sent education specialists to Laos, received 2,000 Lao students of general education, more than 3,000 students in different specialised branches and more than 700 university students and post-graduates. In the next five years Vietnam will receive yearly 300 Lao university and vocational school students.

Vietnam has given to Laos a quantity of teaching materials. Every year the two countries have exchanged delegations for mutual visits and study tours. Vietnam's assistance and co-operation has largely contributed to the development of education in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

CSO: 4220/142

BRIEFS

SRV CBW USE--Bangkok, 7 Dec (AFP)--A former Lao army captain has claimed that more than 60,000 Laos have suffered from "yellow rain" poisoning and called on United Nations experts to make an on-spot investigation. Captain (Jumua Lee) said a UN panel recently in Thailand came up with inconclusive findings because the experts were unable to go to areas where the lethal agents were being used. "If UN officials investigate without an on-spot inspection there is no way they can come up with conclusive evidence," he said in an interview published by the semi-official THAI NEWS AGENCY (TNA). "But if they had a chance to go to the areas, they would find that Vietnam is using poisonous chemicals in Laos and Cambodia," he maintained. The UN panel headed by Ismat Ezz of Egypt spent 10 days interviewing refugees here last month. The UN General Assembly's main political committee last Friday called on the team to continue the probe. According to the Lao captain, the "yellow rain" was most used in the Phou Bia mountains in northeastern Laos. Many survivors among the 60,000 continue to wage war against Vietnam from the hills, he said. [Text] [BK071206 Hong Kong AFP in English 1147 GMT 7 Dec 81]

SRV, LAOS TRADE AGREEMENT--Hanoi, 5 Nov (VNA)--An agreement on goods exchange and payment for the five years ending in 1985 between Vietnam and Laos and a protocol on the implementation of this agreement in 1982 were signed in Vientiane today. Signatories were Le Khac, minister of foreign trade and head of the Vietnamese trade delegation, and Maisouk Saisompheng, minister of industry and head of the Lao trade delegation. The signing ceremony was attended by Saly Vongkhamsao, secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and vice premier, and Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Xuan. During its stay in Laos, the Vietnamese trade delegation was received by Nouhak Phoumsavan, political bureau member of the LPRP Central Committee and vice premier. It compared notes with a Lao trade delegation on the implementation of trade agreements in the past five years and worked out measures to enhance trade cooperation between the two countries in the years to come. The Vietnamese guests also visited several economic and cultural establishments in Vientiane. They left the Lao capital this afternoon, concluding their four-day visit to the country. [Text] [OW051908 Hanoi VNA in English 1559 GMT 5 Nov 81]

MINISTER RECEIVES SRV DELEGATION--Vientiane, 9 Dec (KPL)--Maisouk Saisompheng, minister of industry and trade, on December 7, received the Vietnamese delegation of the Ministry of Building headed by its Deputy Minister Vu Quy. The discussion which proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality, dealt with industrial cooperation between the two countries. The said Vietnamese delegation has been here since December 3. [Text] [BK091325 Vientiane KPL in English 0921 GMT 9 Dec 81]

DELEGATION'S RETURN FROM SRV--Vientiane, 7 Dec (KPL)--A delegation of the propaganda and training board of the party CC led by its Deputy-head Somlat Chanthamat, on December 5, arrived here from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. During its stay in Vietnam, the Lao delegation gave lectures on general situation in Laos at Thanh Hoa Province and the Central Trade Union School. Somlat Chanthamat also led his delegation to call on Nguyen Duy Trinh, Political Bureau member of the Communist Party of Vietnam CC, head of the propaganda and training board of the party CC, and to visit the party school of Ho Chi Minh City. The Lao delegation left here for the SRV on November 21. Meeting the delegation at the airport were Son Khamvanvongsa, deputy-head of the propaganda and training board of the party CC, and other members of the said board. [Text] [BK091325 Vientiane KPL in English 0921 GMT 7 Dec 81]

SOVIET WRITERS' DELEGATION--Vientiane, 7 Dec (KPL)--Son Khamvanvongsa, deputy-minister of propaganda, information, culture and tourism, on December 5, received here Soviet writers led by Gladkov. The discussion dealt mainly on literacy work in Laos and the Soviet Union. The Soviet writers arrived here on December 1 for an 8-day friendship visit to Laos. [Text] [BK091325 Vientiane KPL in English 0923 GMT 7 Dec 81]

BULGARIAN PHOTO EXHIBITION--Vientiane, 8 Dec (KPL)--The national committee for the celebration of Bulgarian national days in collaboration with the Bulgarian Embassy to Laos, on December 5, organized in Vientiane a photo exhibition commemorating the 1300th anniversary of the Bulgarian state. The photo exhibition is also to mark the 90th national day, the 12th Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party and the 70th birthday of Todor Jivkov. Present at the opening ceremony were Sali Vongkhamso, secretary of the party CC, vice-premier and chairman of the National Planning Committee; Chanmi Douangboudi, member of the party CC and minister to the premier's office; Maisouk Saisompheng, member of the party CC, minister of industry and trade chairman of the national committee for the celebration of Bulgarian historical days; and Kham-Ouang Bouphe, deputy minister for agriculture, forestry and irrigation, vice president of the Laos-Bulgarian Friendship Association. Also present on this occasion were Zhetchko Radunov and Petrov Tenu, respectively ambassador of Bulgaria and vice-president of the Bulgaria-Laos Friendship Association along with a number of diplomatic envoys and representatives of international organizations. [BK091325 Vientiane KPL in English 0921 GMT 8 Dec 81]

KAMPUCHEAN NEWS DELEGATION DEPARTS--Vientiane, 8 Dec (KPL)--A delegation of the KAMPUCHEAN NEWS AGENCY led by Kithimhuan, on December 7, left here for home after ending a 7-day official visit here at the invitation of the LAO NEWS AGENCY and newspaper department. Seeing the delegation off at Wattai airport were Chanthi Duansavan, acting head of the LAO NEWS AGENCY and newspaper department, and other officials of the said department. Chhong Toeum, counselor of the Kampuchean Embassy to Laos, was also present. [Text] [BK091325 Vientiane KPL in English 0929 GMT 8 Dec 81]

UNESCO EDUCATION AID--Vientiane, 4 Dec (KPL)--The United [Nations] Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recently presented aid to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Religious Affairs. The aid, worth nearly U.S.\$30,000, included 12 motorcycles, 104 bicycles and educational materials. The goods are to be used in the literacy and training course campaign. [Text] [BK091325 Vientiane KPL in English 0926 GMT 4 Dec 81]

BULGARIAN FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION--Vientiane, 5 Dec (KPL)--Vice president of the Bulgaria-Laos Friendship Association, Petrov Tenu, on December 4, paid a courtesy visit to the deputy minister of propaganda, information, culture and tourism, Son Khamvanvongsa. Petrov Tenu was in the company of Mrs Chanmi Souvannavong, Laos-Bulgaria Friendship Association's committee member. The cordial discussion was centered on the improvement of friendship relations, solidarity and cooperation between Laos and Bulgaria. The guest and the host also dealt with issues on cooperation in the fields of culture and literature. Petrov Tenu arrived in Vientiane on November 27 for an official visit. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 5 Dec 81 BK]

HUNGARIAN DELEGATION'S ACTIVITIES--Vientiane, 4 Nov (KPL)--Bountiam Phitsamai, deputy minister of education, sports and religious affairs, on October 31, received here the educational delegation of the Hungarian People's Republic, led by Kezor Zorkar, head of the cultural service of the Culture Ministry of Hungary. The meeting, which proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality, was centered on the enhancement of mutual cooperation in the education field. The deputy minister also thanked the Hungarian education delegation for its assistance in the past, as well as in the present. [Text] [BK051117 Vientiane KPL in English 0911 GMT 4 Nov 81]

SPORTS ACCORD WITH SRV--Vientiane, 30 Oct (KPL)--An agreement on sports and physical education between Laos and Vietnam was signed here on October 30. Signing the agreement were, on the Lao side, Outtama Chounlamani, deputy-minister of education, sports and religious affairs, and on the Vietnamese side, Ta Quang Chien, head of the Federation Department of Sports and Physical Education of Vietnam. This agreement is not only in accordance with the implementation of the agreement on economic, cultural, scientific and technological cooperation signed on June 3, 1981, between the two countries, but it is also aimed to strengthen the special friendship relations between the peoples of the two countries. The delegation of the Federation Department of Sports and Physical Education of Vietnam had paid an official visit to Laos from October 19 to 26. [BK011009 Vientiane KPL in English 0923 GMT 30 Oct 81]

KOMSOMOL ANNIVERSARY RALLY--Vientiane, 31 Oct (KPL)--The Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union [LPRYU] CC, in collaboration with Laos-USSR Friendship Association and the KOMSOMOL Leninists' organization to Laos, on October 29, organized here a rally celebrating the 63d founding anniversary of the All Union Leninist Young Communist League. Present on this occasion were Khamliang Phonsena, acting-minister of public health and vice-president of the Laos-USSR Friendship Association, Rachit Kamidouline, counselor of the Soviet Embassy to Laos, and other officials. Khamkong Keovongsot, member of the Mobilizing Committee of the LPRYU CC on this occasion addressed the gathering stressing on the past successes, as well as the present ones, of the KOMSOMOL Leninists youths. He also noted the friendship and cooperation between the two youth organizations of Laos and the USSR. [BK011009 Vientiane KPL in English 0905 GMT 31 Oct 81]

BULGARIAN MUSIC BAND DEPARTURE--Vientiane, 28 Oct (KPL)--The "Diana Express" music band of the People's Republic of Bulgaria led by S. Berberova, representative of the Department of Arts of Bulgaria, on October 27, left here for home after concluding its 6-day friendship visit to Laos. During its stay in Laos, the "Diana Express"

had also conducted performances to the Lao audience. The visit of the band was not only to exchange experiences on arts, but it was aiming to strengthen the fraternal friendship and combative solidarity between the peoples of the two countries as well [Text] [BK011009 Vientiane KPL in English 0921 GMT 28 Oct 81]

DELEGATION'S RETURN FROM CSSR--Vientiane, 30 Oct (KPL)--A delegation of the Lao Patriotic Women's Association led by its acting-president, Khamsouk Vongvichit, on October 26, arrived here from the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. The delegation had attended the conference of the world women and taken part in the 8th Congress of the International Democratic Women's Federation which was held in Praha from October 8 to 15. Besides attending the Praha congress, the Lao women delegation had also paid an official visit to the German Democratic Republic at the invitation of the GDR Women's Federation. [Text] [BK011009 Vientiane KPL in English 0928 GMT 30 Oct 81]

DEATH OF BURMESE LEADER CONDOLENCES --Vientiane, 17 Nov (KPL)--Souphanouvong, president of the Lao Front for National Construction, on November 13, sent a message of condolences to U Ne Win, chairman of the Socialist Program Party [BSPP] of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma. The Lao president expressed his deep sympathy to Chairman U Ne Win, upon learning the news of passing away of U Thaung Kyi, general secretary of the Socialist Program Party of Burma. "On behalf of the Lao Front and in my own name, I would like to convey to you and through to the BSPP and to the bereaved family my deepest grief," the Lao president stressed. [Text] [BK171154 Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT 17 Nov 81]

'KPL' ATTENDS 'OANA' CONFERENCE--Vientiane, 3 Nov (KPL)--A delegation of the LAO NEWS AGENCY (KPL) led by its deputy-director Chanthon Thiangthepvongsa, on October 31, left here to attend the conference of the ORGANIZATION OF ASIAN NEWS AGENCY (OANA). The OANA conference will be opened from November 2 to 5 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's capital. This conference, which was sponsored by UNESCO, is aimed to ratify the efforts of the nonaligned news agencies in the struggle against the imperialist and reactionary interferences into the news network of each news agency. [Text] [BK031234 Vientiane KPL in English 0914 GMT 3 Nov 81]

DELEGATION TO FIJI AVIATION CONFERENCE--Vientiane, 7 Nov (KPL)--A delegation of the Lao Civil Aviation Department led by its head Phoun Khammounheuang, on November 5 left here for Fiji. The Lao delegation will attend the annual conference of the heads of civil aviation of Asia and Pacific which will be held in Fiji on November 9 to 13. [Text] [BK071321 Vientiane KPL in English 0917 GMT 7 Nov 81]

YOUTH UNION GREETES KOMSOMOL--Vientiane, 9 Nov (KPL)--The Mobilizing Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union, on November 6, sent a greeting message to the All Union Leninist Young Communists League (KOMSOMOL) on the occasion of the 64th anniversary of the Great October Revolution. The message stressed that over the past 64 years, under the just and clear-sighted leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the KOMSOMOL Leninist youth became the vanguard in all emulating campaign in the task of the development of socialist construction to step up toward the Communist society which is the highest aspiration of the Soviet youth and people as well as of the world people. The message also appraised and expressed the deep gratitude for the support, the precious aid and the fraternal cooperation of the Soviet Youth and people accorded to the Lao revolutionary task. Wishes of new and greater successes were finally expressed to the Leninist KOMSOMOL in implementing the 11th 5-year plan adopted by the 26th CPSU Congress. [Text] [BK091031 Vientiane KPL in English 0926 GMT 9 Nov 81]

POLISH FILM NIGHT--Vientiane, 14 Oct (KPL)--The Polish Embassy to Laos on October 12 held here a film night commemorating the 38th founding anniversary of the Polish People's Army. Members of the government, the People's Supreme Assembly, the Lao Front for National Construction and a large number of military and civilian cadres attended the film shows. Diplomatic envoys and military attaches of the socialist countries to Laos were also present. [Text] [BK141225 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 14 Oct 81]

GDR PRESS DELEGATION--Vientiane, 14 Oct (KPL)--A delegation of the Press Department of the GDR Foreign Ministry led by its head Gunter Fritz, on October 13 arrived here for an official visit. The GDR delegation will exchange views with the press department of the Lao Foreign Ministry. [Text] [BK141225 Vientiane KPL in English 0911 GMT 14 Oct 81]

BURMA'S THANKS FOR ELECTION MESSAGE--Recently, LPDR President Souphanouvong received a message of thanks from U San Yu, president of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma. The message reads as follows: I would like to thank you sincerely, for the warm congratulations extended to me on the occasion of my election as president and chairman of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma. I share your conviction that the time-honored relations of friendship between our two countries and two peoples will be further enhanced and strengthened. I wish you good health and happiness. [Text] [BK140354 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 11 Dec 81]

BURMESE LAO NATIONAL DAY GREETINGS--On the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the Lao National Day, President U San Yu and Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma [SRUB] sent greetings messages to LPDR President Souphanouvong and Prime Minister Kaysone Phomvihane. The message from U San Yu to Souphanouvong reads: On the occasion of the LPDR National Day, the people of the SRUB and I would like to extend our congratulations and best wishes to you. We wish you happiness and health, and the Lao people progress and prosperity. I am fully convinced that the existing relations of friendship between our two countries will be further developed and strengthened. The message from U Maung Maung Kha to Kaysone Phomvihane reads: On the occasion of the LPDR National Day, on behalf of the SRUB Council of Ministers and in my own name, I would like to extend our sincere congratulations and warm greetings to you, and through you to the people of the LPDR. On the same occasion, SRUB Foreign Affairs Minister U Chit Hlaing also sent a greetings message to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Phoun Sipaseut. [Text] [BK121226 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 10 Dec 81]

XIENG KHOUANG ROAD REPAIR--According to a report submitted to the meeting held in Xieng Khouang Province on 15 October, the local youths have completed repairing Route No 4B linking Xieng Khouang town and Mok District. This route is 52 kilometers long. They also have leveled several sectors of the 74 km Route No 4A linking Xieng Khouang town to Tha Viang, repaired 19 bridges on this route, and leveled a 36 km sector of Route No 4 from Xieng Khouang town to Phon Savan. [BK011009 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0400 GMT 31 Oct 81]

SAVANNAKHET ROAD REPAIR--Cadres and workers of an engineering unit under the Savannakhet Provincial Military Command recently completed repairing the 18 km road between Seno and Phon Deua Canton. They also repaired two damaged bridges and dug some canals. [BK011009 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0400 GMT 31 Oct 81]

SAYABOURY ROAD REPAIR--Cadres and villagers in two cantons in Paklai District, Sayaboury Province, started repairing a 3 km damaged road on 6 October. The repair work has been completed, thus facilitating traffic in the area. [BK011009 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 1 Nov 81]

UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE--Vientiane, 14 Oct (KPL)--Outtama Choumlamani, deputy minister of education, sports and religious affairs, recently received here the deputy head of UNICEF to Laos. On this occasion, issues on UNICEF aid to Laos in the next 5 years on the field of education were discussed. [Text] [BK141225 Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT 14 Oct 81]

AID FROM GDR TU--Vientiane, 19 Oct (KPL)--The handover ceremony of the aid from the Confederation of Free German Trade Union [CPGTU] to the Federation of Lao Trade Union [FLTU] was organized here on October 16. The aid was presented to Bountham Kounlapviset-Akhom, acting president of the FLTU, by the secretary general and deputy-head of the Foreign Relations Department of the CPGTU, and who is also head of the visiting delegation to Laos, Klaus Mensel. Dieter Doering, GDR ambassador to Laos, was also present on the handover ceremony. The aid includes 5 motor bikes, 20 bicycles, 13 typewriters in French language, 4 offset-printing machines and other sport materials. The delegation of the CPGTU left here on the following day, October 17, after concluding its 7-day official visit to Laos. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0906 GMT 19 Oct 81 BK]

CSO: 4220/139

REFORM LAW PLANS PRESENTED TO ASSEMBLY

BK150319 Hong Kong AFP in English 0044 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] Moumea, New Caledonia, 14 Dec (AFP)--Plans for a draft law instituting wide-ranging reforms in this French-ruled South Pacific island were presented at a plenary session of the territorial assembly here today.

The assembly, which decides the more important territorial affairs, was expected to give an opinion on the project within 8 days.

The new law would give Caledonians more say in their government, speed up land reforms and make changes in mining and energy--a major source of income for the territory.

In addition it (would) bring fiscal reform, promote the culture of Melanesians, who comprise the majority of the island's population, and set up an organization to create more egalitarian economic and social development.

Only assembly members from the Front Independantiste (Independence Front) applauded when the draft bill was presented. Majority members later expressed their "disappointment" with the draft law.

Rover Laroque, president of the Rassemblement pour la Caledonie Dans la Republique, said he had "learned nothing."

Christian Boissery, president of the Centriso Federation pour une Nouvelle Societe Caledonienne, said he was disappointed despite the fact his party was "for reforms."

Front Independantiste spokesman Yewene Yewene expressed satisfaction but added that the reforms "must be decolonization measures and must lead toward independence."

New Caledonia's 60,000 indigenous Melanesians, known as Canaques, had their hopes for independence strengthened by the socialist takeover of the French presidency and parliament last May and June.

The Canaques have a very small role in the French overseas territory's economic activity which is largely run by the some 50,000 European residents.

CSO: 4220/134

INDIAN PAPER ON PAKISTAN-U.S. RELATIONS

BK301352 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Nov 81 p 8

[Editorial: "Zia's American Connection"]

[Text] General Ziaul Haq's announcement that there will be no early return to civilian rule in Pakistan evokes far less interest than the probable external compulsions responsible for this reiteration. Even if the Pakistan president had not said so many times before, the evasiveness of his political actions and the persistence with which he has put off elections on one flimsy pretext or another during the last four-and-a-half years of military rule, make it abundantly clear that he has every intention of retaining power for as long as possible. Illegal restrictions like newspaper censorship and the ban on political activity, that he recently upheld, are expected features of authoritarian governance. So too is his warning that the judiciary's conduct will be under scrutiny, General Zia presumably fearing that his efforts to create an Islamic jurisprudence, and the need since March for all high court and supreme court judges to swear allegiance to his new constitution, may not be sufficient guarantees of an acquiescent legal system. What is, however, of interest is the timing of this emphasis on existing policy and the regrettable fact that the Pakistani president has again chosen to involve India in his domestic stratagems.

The reference to Pakistan being flanked by "two important powers" is especially surprising since General Zia and his advisers have been at considerable pains to explain that they fear no hostile action from the Soviet Union, while Islamabad also makes much of its oblique suggestion of a no-war pact with New Delhi. If these statements are to be taken at face value, there is surely no need for Pakistan to feel threatened. But even if, for argument's sake, India and the Soviet Union are seen as sources of potential danger, the general insults his country's political parties, press and judiciary by implying that their rights must be curtailed to protect national integrity. The clear implication is that a Pakistan governed by democratic norms would capitulate to its neighbours, and that only a military dictatorship can defend the country.

This preposterous thesis makes sense only against the background of Islamabad's emerging military relationship with Washington. The \$3.2 billion package is less important in this context than the fact that the U.S. now expects Pakistan to look after its security interests in Southwest Asia and to act as a brake on what is

perceived to be the Soviet Union's policy of expansion toward the Indian Ocean. The examples of erstwhile South Vietnam, South Korea and the Philippines demonstrate that U.S. strategists prefer to entrust such policing duties to dictatorial regimes over which they can expect to exercise greater control than would be possible with elected governments accountable to parliaments and voters. Mr Alexander Haig has, in fact, spelt out this attitude in enunciating his views on human rights. President Reagan's despatch of military advisers and supplies to El Salvador merely confirms the preference. Given the Republican administration's allergy to democratically-ruled Third World countries, General Zia may have felt it necessary to stress that politicians will be kept out, especially since some American newspaper reports suggest that the Pakistani public is anti-U.S. Indeed, the Pakistani and U.S. presidents are bound by an identity of interests. If at the same time, General Zia feels it necessary to talk of a nominated federal advisory council, this is only a sop to liberal American opinion which may question the wisdom of relying on a military ruler without any popular base.

CSO: 4220/135

'INDIAN EXPRESS' ON POLITICAL REPRESSION IN PAKISTAN

BK091557 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 5 Dec 81

[Editorial: "Arms and the Man"]

[Text] The report of the Pakistan Committee for Democracy is at variance with the official stance of a little country badly in need of arms to ward off an imminent external threat to its existence. Most of those who questioned this perception, propagated by Washington as by Islamabad, have criticised President Reagan's philanthropy toward Pakistan almost wholly in terms of its propensity to raise temperatures in the region and trigger a wasteful arms race on the sub-continent. That the massive arms aid could have consequences for the people of Pakistan has been, by design or default, largely ignored. It has been left to a section of the people of Pakistan to draw the attention of the world in general and of opinion-makers in the United States in particular to their plight under the Zia regime.

Last month, defying the regime, the movement for restoration of democracy in Pakistan (the seven-party opposition front) issued a statement denouncing the U.S. aid package as something that will only benefit the "completely dictatorial and unpopular military junta." Now, the Pakistan Committee for Democracy has published a report detailing the "inhuman, cruel and gruesome repression" unleashed by Gen Zia. Hundreds of people have been flogged in public and men and women have been sentenced to death by stoning, some 800 people are executed every year, at least 9,000 political opponents are behind bars, prisoners and suspects are tortured and dismembered in jails, and people are denied all rights—"to speak, to write, to read, to association: everything is a crime...under the obscurantist official creed." Addressing itself to American public opinion, the report on "the horrors of the Zia regime" appeals to the "freedom loving peoples—especially in the U.S."—to oppose the regime and official American support for it.

CSO: 4220/135

'SANGBAD' EDITORIAL SAYS PAKISTAN IS 'SICK'

BK011638 Dacca SANGBAD in Bengali 21 Nov 81 p 4

[Editorial: "The Crisis of Sick Pakistan"]

[Text] General Ziaul Haq, the military ruler of the Pakistan Government, has made an interesting remark. He said that now is not the time to hold elections. Pakistan's condition is similar to that of a sick person, who needs treatment in a hospital. It does not have the strength to play the game on the election field.

General Ziaul Haq removed from power Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who made him powerful by handing over the iron rod of the position of commander in chief, at the first available opportunity. He did not stop there however. He threw Bhutto into jail, called him a "bastard", held a fake trial and finally wiped him out of the world by hanging him on the gallows.

He has been suppressing his people for the past 4 and one-half years by vigorously brandishing his stick and in a similar fashion uttering whatever comes to his mind to prevent an election. An honest statement, however—that sick Pakistan needs treatment—has slipped out of his mouth. It goes without saying that the person who diagnosed the disease should take the responsibility of supplying medicine and providing treatment.

The fact is that Pakistan has been suffering from a disease known as "crisis" from its very inception. Pakistani leaders extended the excuse of this crisis when just 1 year after its birth it came out on the battlefield. Because of the same crisis they could not frame a constitution for 9 years. Since then they have placed this excuse before the public whenever demands for food clothing, basic rights and so forth are raised. This crisis was labeled as "communist aggression" or "India's conspiracy." Of course, at that time China was also considered an unfriendly state. Therefore, the leaders of the then Pakistan tried their best to either suppress or divert public opinion by raising the bogey of these two threats.

General Ziaul Haq is also doing the same thing; however, he does not see all the communist countries in the same light. He said that Pakistan is surrounded by two big powers--the Soviet Union and India--and thus, the situation is very critical. Under such circumstances the question of holding an election does not arise and press censorship or the ban on political activities cannot be lifted.

In order to keep his dictatorship intact, he has mentioned on countless occasions, including this one, different things to counter demands for holding an election or setting up democratic rule. At the time he seized power, he gave his assurance that soldiers would return to their barracks at the appropriate time; however, he has given up the idea of relinquishing the seat of power by discovering different "crises" at different times. After Bhutto's downfall, he sought time for the return of peaceful conditions in the country, but it never came into being. In fact, Ziaul Haq himself did not allow the situation to normalize. He has not only aggravated the problems of food and employment by paying scant attention to economic development, but he has also raised political tension to its peak by repeatedly postponing elections, and in the interim, by executing Bhutto. When this periodically led to public agitations in Pakistan, the military dictator with the help of his soldiers promptly crushed everything. He formed his Council of Ministers with his own select band of civilian and military personnel and sacked the Supreme Court judges under one pretext or the other.

Aid from the United States--the leader of the Western democratic camp--and the Saudi Arabian monarchy have strengthened the atrocious rule of Ziaul Haq. The Saudi king has handed over millions of dollars to Pakistan by entrusting it with the authority of safeguarding Islam and the United States is supplying large quantities of modern sophisticated weapons to it for the purpose of containing its enemy. Thus General Zia, overwhelmed with joy, is doing whatever comes to his mind.

In fact, the Afghan problem has widened his scope of keeping the power intact. He was in dire need of such a problem for the purpose of diverting the attention of his countrymen toward another side as well as for acquiring economic and military aid. Besides receiving \$3.2 billion dollars worth of U.S. military hardware for the purpose of containing the imaginary Soviet aggression in the Gulf region--caused by the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan--various other forms of aid are also reaching the hands of the Pakistan dictator from China, which calls itself a follower of Marxism. Over and above all this, Pakistan is receiving international aid for the Afghan refugees. All this aid is not only extending the duration of atrocious rule in Pakistan but it is also bringing the subcontinent and the entire Middle East, including the Gulf region, into the tension of war.

While receiving these arms, Ziaul Haq is also trying to fool the world by making irrelevant statements. He said that the question of fighting a superpower--the Soviet Union--does not arise. At the same time, he said Pakistan cannot think of waging a war against India, which is five times stronger than it. In order to make his statement plausible, he extended a proposal of a "no war pact" with India. At the same time, however, he has told others that Pakistan, which is encircled by India and the Soviet Union, is confronting a very great danger and at this time the questions of freedom of speech, political activities and the holding of an election do not arise.

Besides the convenience of remaining in power, what the Pakistan president is trying to cover up with these talks are the reports of how he has been allowed to organize a dangerous game in Pakistan by being a tool in the hands of an interested foreign power. Despite his efforts, he can not hide news such as the large-scale training of Afghan rebels in guerrilla warfare inside Pakistan, the everflowing supply of arms and people into Afghanistan through Pakistani borders for conducting subversive

activities, the use of the Pakistani Government machinery as a center of worldwide propaganda against the present Afghan Government and so forth.

Ziaul Haq can say whatever he wants, but it is necessary for us to assess how far this dictator--who is blind in his craze for power and war psychosis--has pushed his own nation and people toward a dangerous path and also jeopardized the people of the region.

Thus, Pakistan needs treatment. Its anti-democratic rulers have made the country sick.

CSO: 4201/6

BRIEFS

LIBYAN LABOR MINISTER VISIT--Libyan Minister for Labor Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Mabruk is to visit Pakistan before the end of next month to conclude a labor agreement between the two countries. This was stated by Federal Minister for Labor, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis Ghulam Dastgir Khan in Karachi today. Talking to newsmen, he said all the 2,800 Pakistani workers recruited by the Al-Murtuza Associates have been brought to Tripoli for their repatriation to Pakistan shortly. Ghulam Dastgir said that the government is also reviewing its emigration policy and steps will be taken to remove its shortcomings wherever necessary. [Text] [BK071114 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 7 Dec 81]

CSO:: 4220/135

PHILIPPINES

FURTHER DETAILS ON PHILIPPINE CORN PROGRAM

HK170431 Baguio Mountain Province Broadcasting Corporation in English 0400 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Excerpts] The government has launched an intensive corn production program to make the country self-sufficient in corn and an exporter of the cereal in 4 years time. The program will have initial funding of 100 million pesos and will cover 48 provinces. The program hopes to wipe out the \$42 million that the country spends annually in importing corn.

To get the program going, President Marcos reconstituted the national food and agricultural council to oversee the corn program. The council will be headed by Agriculture Minister Arturo Tanco. The president also ordered the creation of a national management committee for the program. All governors and mayors will act as chairmen of provincial and municipal program committees.

The president also raised the loan ceiling for corn farmers from 900 pesos per hectare/crop to 1,450 pesos per hectare for farmers who use the variety 1, and 2,300 pesos for farmers who use hybrid. He said this move should enable the corn farmers to afford the cost of the new technology. President Marcos also encouraged the participation of rural banks, the Philippine National Bank [BNP], the Agriculture Credit Administration [ACA] and the Land Bank by giving incentives such as raising interest rates from 12 to 15 percent to all the institutions a wider profit margin.

The chief executive said that under these liberalized rules, 140 rural banks in the program areas will qualify to participate in the corn program. He said these rural banks will be augmented by 47 BNP branches, 9 Land Bank branches, and 6 ACA branches.

As a further boost to the corn program, the president has ordered that land participating in the program will be exempted from the Land Reform Act.

CSO: 4220/134

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

NEW AUSTRIAN ENVOY--Manila, 8 Dec (AFP)--The Philippine Government has accepted the nomination of Dr Friedrich Posch as the new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Austria. Dr Posch, 50, has served in the Austrian embassies in New Delhi, the Hague, Pretoria and Brussels. [Text] [BKO91507 Hong Kong AFP in English 0843 GMT 8 Dec 81]

SABAH DISPUTE TO BE SOLVED--The dispute between the Philippines and Malaysia over the territory of Sabah in Borneo may be settled soon. Malaysia's Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad said in Kuala Lumpur at the weekend that there were indications the Philippine Government will drop its historic claim to the Sabah territory. The Malaysian prime minister said he had been in personal contact with President Ferdinand Marcos over the issue. He did not elaborate on these contacts. Settling the dispute will fulfill the promise of President Marcos at the ASEAN summit 4 years ago, that the Philippines was taking definite steps to eliminate the claim on Sabah. Sabah is allegedly being used by Philippine Muslim rebels as a training base. The report from Malaysia did not mention the fact that President Marcos has declared that the Philippines has dropped its claim on Sabah, and that it considers Sabah a closed issue. [Text] [MEL00103 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2330 GMT 9 Dec 81]

POPULATION GROWTH RATE REDUCTION--President Marcos said yesterday the government will pursue the reduction of the country's annual population growth rate. He said this will be done through a noncoercive approach. He said the government aims to reduce the population growth rate to 2 percent by 1985, and 1.6 percent by the year 2000. He made this disclosure at the 19th general conference of the International Union of the Scientific Study of Population at the Philippine International Convention Center. [Text] [HK110057 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 0030 GMT 11 Dec 81]

OVERSEAS INFORMATION EFFORTS BOOSTED--President Marcos is speeding up the creation of well-coordinated information efforts overseas. Earlier, Mr Marcos had called on all ministries and agencies with attaches abroad to create an efficient foreign information machinery. The call directed a review of all the offices involved in the information efforts in foreign countries. The review aims to coordinate operations and reorient objectives to specific areas. [Text] [HK100157 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 0130 GMT 10 Dec 81]

FARMERS PAY PART OF COCONUT LEVY--Coconut farmers pay part of the 50 peso levy collected for every 100 kilos sale of copra, a spokesman for the United Coconut Mills [UNICOM] said yesterday. Addressing the [words indistinct] club, (Jaime Gantiaga) said 44 percent of the levy is paid by the UNICOM, 40 percent by the foreign buyers of coconut oil, and 16 percent by the farmers and about 4 layers of middlemen. (Gantiaga) made this disclosure to dispute a claim of Mindanao Assemblyman Emanuel Pelaez, a critic of the coconut levy, that the imposition is paid solely by the farmers. It was the first time since the controversy on levy started that a UNICOM official admitted that the coconut farmers, numbering about 1 million, are contributing to the levy. [Text] [HK130533 Baguio Mountain Province Broadcasting Corporation in English 0400 GMT 13 Dec 81]

DEMONSTRATION PLANNED AGAINST CORRUPT OFFICIALS--Two of three Cebu officials charged with graft before the Sandigan Bayan [Anticorruption Court] last October are still in office. The three, along with a Manila businesswoman, have been charged before the Sandigan Bayan with allegedly overpricing school forms and materials bought by the city government. The irregularities had been reportedly going on for several years. However, not one of the officials charged has been suspended, and they continue to hold office. Some people are planning to stage a demonstration to protest the continued stay in office of the three. [Text] [HK130543 Baguio Mountain Province Broadcasting Corporation in English 0400 GMT 13 Dec 81]

ARMY DEVELOPS MODIFIED M-16 RIFLE--The armed forces research and development center has developed a modified version of the M-16 assault rifle, more handy and highly accurate, with special luminal sights to enable a soldier to see his target even in darkness. Called "Baby Armalite," because it is almost half the size of the U.S.-made M-16, it packs the same deadly firepower but is more stable during sustained combat-firing, according to Col (Jose Gilliam), chief of the center. It is capable of firing 650 rounds a minute. Its muzzle has been shortened, but its accuracy has been improved. It also has a three-round burst selector, drastically saving ammunition. [Text] [HK130547 Baguio Mountain Province Broadcasting Corporation in English 0400 GMT 13 Dec 81]

JAPAN, TAIWAN TO BUY CORN--Japan and Taiwan are willing to import the Philippines' yellow corn. This was revealed today by Deputy Agriculture Minister (Manuel Lim) as he assured the farmers of a ready market for their produce under the corn program. This program was launched yesterday by President Marcos. It aims to attain self-sufficiency and eventually export corn in 3 years' time. Deputy Minister (Lim) said that the governments of Japan and Taiwan signified their intention to buy more corn even before the launching of the corn program. These two countries, he said, prefer to import from the Philippines because of our nearness to them. He added that they have witnessed how the country has improved its agricultural production since the launching of the (Matagana 99) rice program. To ensure the success of the corn program and to eliminate the problems which were embodied in previous (Matagana) programs, the ministry has undertaken several steps. One is the fielding of about 1,500 technicians specifically trained to assist the farmers in planting the varieties of corn. The ministry plans to utilize up to 2,500 technicians for the full implementation of the said program. The corn program attempts to duplicate the success of the (Matagana 99) rice program. [Text] [HK170831 Manila Domestic Service in English 0800 GMT 17 Dec 81]

CORN SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM LAUNCHED--President Marcos has launched a corn program in Malacanang, aimed at bringing the country self-sufficiency in corn. The program also aims to export, to generate corn surplus worth 40,000 metric tons [as heard]. At the same time Mr Marcos increased the loan ceiling for corn farmers to 1,450 pesos. He also ordered the Central Bank to give rural banks rediscounting of up to 1 million pesos to motivate them in loaning funds to farmers. [Text] [HK170131 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 0030 GMT 17 Dec 81]

CSO: 4220/134

SOCIALIST FRONT OF THAILAND LEADERSHIP HOLDS CONFERENCE

Bangkok PATINYA in Thai 14 Sep 81 pp 36-38

[Article: "Potentialities in Struggle of Socialist Front of Thailand"]

[Text] At the end of August socialist leaders, both those who had experienced the shameful stint in the jungle and those who had never entered the jungle, met at Thammasat University and shared their views on the potentialities in the struggle of the Socialist Front in Thailand. They were Somphong Sakawi, Thongpak Phiangket, Dr Supsaeng Phrombun, Dr Pricha Piamphongsan, and Somsak Chiamthirasakun. When socialists gather together it is usual for them to speak in praise of the socialist system, along with redressing wrongs, or to attack other systems. We ought to listen to what views the socialists have on their present situation.

We have given more than enough time.

The socialism of Somphong Sakawi is not a matter that should be taken lightly because it does not follow anyone else's ideas, but proceeds according to the actual limitations in society, remains in society, and fights for development gradually. Capitalism in Thailand, in the view of Somphong, has reached its peak and has developed on a vast scale, deep and widespread. The modern factory system employs thousands of workers and has evolved a production system of magnitude, similar to the communications that have spread to the rural area. The rural situation of dependence on the city has almost disappeared now. The development of capitalism cannot be halted by anyone. In such conditions Somphong thinks that the consequences are the devaluation of humanity by the money system, causing the status of man to lose its worth. Somphong stated that we must reply to the problem of the denigration of socialism. "We must answer the distortion of the word socialism by the ruling class, the capitalists, and those who do not understand what socialism is. We must counter that we are not beaten by socialism but by authoritarianism." Somphong used the example of Field Marshal P. taking over state enterprises as a source of profit. "The duty of socialist people is to face this problem tirelessly, explaining the socialist methods of correcting the nation's problems, making the form of the struggle fit actual conditions of society. We must act through democratic means." Somphong pointed to the problem arising from the democratic method approach by the socialists, that the problem comes from the coup d'etat and the plea by the capitalist group to extend the time. "We have given more than enough time." Finally, Somphong summarized in these words, "The path of the socialist struggle is something that no one can set, but

will be determined by actual conditions, where all the poor must seek the means for the allocation of wealth and economic justice, by socialist methods. So there should be no holding back."

Jungle joins town.

"Socialism should mean a social system where the workers can have a political life and the production of society. Socialism is the true struggle for these aims." Somsak Chiamthirasakun gave this initial definition, because Somsak is not certain whether Thailand has a Socialist Party. The many political parties that speak of socialism do not know whether their understandings of socialism as a political party are the same.

Is it possible to have a Socialist Party in Thai society? Somsak sees that the Thai rulers seize the opportunity to attack other political movements while they are suppressing the communists, such as the jungle people returning to the city, not because they are dissatisfied with socialism but because they do not agree with the form of it. "The ruling class sees that you can do nothing. It will be the jungle joining the city. Denial is not the denial of a possible direction." Therefore, we must struggle in this way first, do the people have the right to choose their system of government? Among those who love socialism there has arisen some confusion of thought. "The denial of the socialist direction of one political party does not necessitate the denial of all socialist ways." Somsak sees the confusion of thought, people, and the call to see which way the wind blows, as obstacles to founding a party, but the present conditions are calling upon socialists to revive the socialist energy to its former vitality. The socialist party that Somsak understands does not conduct its struggle from a seat in Parliament but awakens the people politically and is ready to assume the direction it must return to.

The potential is the criterion of socialism.

Thongpak Phiangket came in the name of the scientific socialism group. He thinks that the route to socialism is always possible, because the criterion of socialism is to make it applicable to actual conditions. "Therefore, we should set as our topic, how will we struggle and what will be better." Thongpak looks at limitations as props. Movements follow the criteria of socialist evolution. The activity of the working class will day by day expand and grow larger unceasingly. Within the ruling class there will be internal divisions or pressures, at the same time. Thongpak thinks that this is a matter for rejoicing because the workers' movement has been established and their knowledge has increased, expanding, with the tactic of modification. "This path is winding and long. Do not put out the fire. The flame of the struggle of the people, who were oppressed, must always leap up in brilliance." Thongpak takes the opportunity to instill socialism in order to seek a method of saying, "What shall we do to have every man work for each and each work for every man?" "I am not concerned whether there will be a true socialist party. It opens the opportunity to leave the jungle and I leave, to lay down arms and I do so. We will struggle in the way of democracy." So Thongpak spoke.

Stop dreaming.

Dr Pricha Piamphongsan turned the discussion, where everyone was talking of potentialities, saying we should cast aside our dreams, "In present conditions we ought not look at the world as good, the way Thongpak does. The time has come for us to ask why socialism has not succeeded in Thailand." Dr Pricha cited the reasons as the power structure of Thai society at present and the strong military influence. The Policy 66/1980 is more a political deceptive strategem because in fact militarism always crushes democracy. "The military is a conservative political group and sets itself as the enemy of socialist ideals." It is tied to the world power bloc, that is, the U.S. The status of the socialist masses is not yet well known. Socialist thought has not yet reached the Thai people. The feudal influence still has a strong hold. The middle class fears socialism "because they think revolution might be two ways. They do not go toward socialism of the illegal jungle, like Kampuchea. They want to continue with the old way even if it is not good. They are sure they will not take a risk as with something new." The crisis of faith in ideals which is widespread has kept socialist groups from uniting. The border situation has made Vietnam draw back from linking up with the return to the town by socialist groups in the jungle. So Dr Pricha proposed that it is the duty of the socialists to announce clearly that they are not concerned with these disagreements. The solution that Dr Pricha suggests has two parts for socialism in the city. The first is the scientific socialist group, like that of Thongpak, giving political education without any political activity. The second is playing politics at the Parliamentary level, such as the present New Force Party. "This is reform, compromise to give this system efficiency in criticizing the system, but in the end be willing to accept it." So Dr Pricha criticized the New Force. He felt that for complete revolution one must think of freedom from the shelter of the super powers. The revolutionary movement must be one sure part of Thai socialism. "Therefore, stop dreaming."

How much do you understand socialism?

Whether the word socialism is genuine or comparatively so is not the question for Dr Supsaeng Phrombun. The method he brings to socialism is quite different. It depends on the conditions within each society. "We must look at the society we are living in, how much we understand its limitations. How far any nation will adopt a socialist path depends on our understanding it and to what extent we employ it in that nation." Dr Supsaeng thinks that the Socialist Front in Thailand is weak, even though three parties have declared themselves in the socialist line, because they joined together under political conditions of urgency after the 14 October incident. Dr Supsaeng said that we cannot lead society to socialism because Thai society is conservative. So it is the duty of those who believe in the socialist way to see that they employ the history of socialism to build faith. Any socialist activity must rely on patience because there are three obstructive factors in the path toward socialism. Those with socialist thought must understand conditions that retard socialism and how much they themselves know of present political conditions. Dr Supsaeng agrees with Dr Pricha that it is militarism "but we are progressing toward change and it will not be long." "Whether we accomplish it speedily or slowly is not the point. The point is what are we doing now." This is the summation of the potentialities of the Socialist Front in Thailand in the view of Dr Supsaeng Phrombun. This report on the debate fore... that from the

beginning there were arguments on the widespread political problems. Do not think that there were answers to the communist indoctrination activity being carried on widely. However, this reporter found no one who could give a clear reply on what socialism would do and by what methods for the survival or viability of the Socialist Front with the quality that they desire.

9615

CSO: 4207/14

MILITARY PROCUREMENT PLAGUED BY CORRUPTION, CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Bankkok SIAM MAI in Thai 26 Sep 81 pp 18-20

[Text] "The whole Thai government system needs surgery. Then the nation will survive and the national economy can develop." This is the summary of Bunchu Rotchanasathian. Almost every businessman you meet is fed up with the Thai government. Although by their position government employees must administer facilities and provide service, the established government system has not and does not operate within the regulations set. When a dispute arises between the government officials and the people, there is no arbitrator except the commander, who for the most part is likely to side with his subordinates.

The government must order, purchase, or procure each year supplies for government use at enormous cost. This purchase of supplies that are needed take place continually. At present it is most likely to cause problems of corruption. The pursuit of illegal benefits is a chronic problem that is difficult to solve.

Under government procurement regulations by law there must be tenders submitting prices, in accord with the order of the Prime Minister's Office. It is well known among merchants who want to do business with the government that, aside from the fixed regulations, winning the bid requires knowing detailed methods of seeking out high ranking government officials, who have procurement authority, and making an alliance with them.

Leading businessmen, who have been involved in procurement with the Thai government, dealing with tens of millions of baht, especially in the purchase of weapons, have summarized the effects of the Thai procurement system in this way.

1. The goods that the government buys is 40-100 percent higher in price than the price quoted in the private sector.
2. The government gets products of poor quality, not meeting the requirements of the user, because the system of purchase at a fixed price is not free.
3. Some groups or individual merchants cooperate with government officials or the committee checking bids for letting contracts to set conditions that honest businessmen cannot meet.

4. Merchants conspire with government officials to set a price for the highest profit and then divide the spoils among them.

5. They delay the procurement so they cannot use the budget efficiently.

6. The regulations and conditions concerning procurement methods are tools of certain bad officials to put pressure on honest merchants.

7. Of great concern in procurement are matters that directly affect national security.

8. For the daily bidding it is known in merchant circles that they must have funds ready to spend initially as follows.

- For the committee, 5 percent of the bid price.
- For the officials checking the bid, 2 percent of the bid price.
- For payment of customs, 1 percent of the bid price.
- For tax subtracted at payment (net profit not yet calculated), 1 percent of bid price.
- Interest and fees (L/C transfer, purchase), for 6 months 11.7 percent of bid price.
- Net profit for merchant, at least 5 percent of bid price.

So all five items total about 25.7 percent.

9. Government officials can easily cancel the bids for the simple reason that the budget is insufficient. Then it is necessary to call for bids by a special method in time for the end of the fiscal year.

10. The final step, if the bidder is not willing to pay bribes or benefits to the inspecting committee, is to frame him so he cannot pass the check, according to the contract. Then he will be fined and his deposit seized.

On the 20th of last August the Air Force Ordnance Department announced a call for bids on the purchase of 20 mm ammunition, fire bomb heads /?/ HEI LINKED, type M 12 (M 56 A3), three items in all; specifying 50,000 rounds for each, totaling 100,000 rounds. It set the time for receiving the closed bids from 0900 to 1000 hours. Each company entering bids had to follow the official procurement procedures, that is, the regulations of the Prime Minister's Office. At the designated time five companies submitted bids.

1. The Nattaphon Company, Ltd offered products from Taiwan, but it did not follow the specifications, that is, only one item (M12) for 50,000 rounds, at over 14 million baht. It failed.

2. The Witthayakhom Company, Ltd offered products from Singapore, for the two items, at over 38 million baht, which was the most expensive.

3. The Enterprise Power Company, Ltd offered products from Korea, following specifications for the two items, at 24 million baht. This was the second highest.

4. The Sathit Wisawakam Company, Ltd offered products from Korea, both as specified, at 23 million baht. This was the lower of the two companies mentioned.

5. The Intercraft Company, Ltd offered products from America, both as specified, at over 20 million baht, the lowest bid, which would win the contract at this time.

It appeared that the Air Force Ordnance Department, instead of taking the next step, making a purchase contract, tried to set details on inspection of the goods. The Intercraft Company was able to meet each condition. Finally the Air Force Ordnance Department declared that the budget for this purchase was only 10 million baht, lower by half of the winning bid. So it could not proceed with signing the purchase contract.

Later on 9 September the Intercraft Company was informed by Squadron Leader Somsak Ratchawat, the chief of the Procurement Division, Air Force Ordnance Department, that it was calling for new bids, as a special type, and that the company should offer a new price, with all conditions the same except the production year of the ammunition, formerly not more than two years, now set at not more than 12 years, that is 1969. The detailed specifications of procurement at this time Group Captain Lamnao Uchukomon, the chairman of the committee, claimed he did not know. This is what Miss Sunika Pitasatcha, of the company board, told SIAM MAI.

On 12 September, the date set for the opening of the special type new bids, only two companies submitted offers, the Suphat Company, Ltd, and the Intercraft Company, Ltd. At 1000 hours the committee chairman, who presided at the meeting, Air Marshal Surayut Niwatsabut, announced that the special bidding at this time was not conclusive. It depended on the Ordnance Department being satisfied with suitable data.

There was a protest and charge by the Intercraft Company that it received a letter cancelling the former bidding for this bid. The details and specifications for this bid were not announced in advance. There was a correction in the specification of the ammunition from not more than two years old to not more than 12 years old. The chairman himself did not know the actual requirements, which were canceled by the subordinate level officials. The resultant confusion finally caused a two day postponement on the procurement because only one company was ready.

The Intercraft Company announced its withdrawal, not offering a price, because it was not prepared for the details which it received in ambiguous form and at short notice. Other companies did not join in the special bidding because they felt that there were plans to have certain companies receive the bids in the manner of a lightning flash. So the 12-year-old ammunition would be sold to the Air Force, even though this company was not ready to submit a price according to the Prime Minister's Office regulations for conducting the bidding. It is ammunition, over age, useless, packed in surplus metal /?/ left in Israel. So they revised several specifications from the previous bidding, the tenders for which were cancelled. In the end this special type of procurement could not be completed because other companies refused the invitation to submit prices. The requirements were vague. The hurried action did not give details. There was criticism in several daily newspapers to the effect that the Air Force was buying ammunition without competitive bidding. Finally this special procurement had to

be given up because there was a hitch that might cause subsequent loss. This committee was to come under investigation.

"I do not understand why the government announces a cancellation so easily without considering the loss to the private sector and how the procurement committee members, who are government employees, can simply revise specifications at will. Someone should be responsible if losses occur when they buy over age useless ammunition." So stated Miss Sunika Pitasatcha, an Inter Craft Company board member, to SIAM MAI.

9615

CSO: 4207/3

COLUMNIST OPPOSES THAI SUPPORT OF KHMER FRONT

Bankgkok MATICHON in Thai 23 Sep 81 p 3

[Column: Sonthale]

[Text] Will the "lost nation" state of the Khmer, who are rallying internal forces to "rouse the ghosts" to rise up and stand firm as independent men once more, fulfill the purpose of the free democratic nations and Red China? It is a matter for study. Norodom Sihanouk, who claimed Khao Phra Wihan from the Thai nation, has been exiled from the land of his birth for a long time. He was the enemy of Khieu Samphan and Ieng Sary, accusing them of undermining the throne and killing millions of his people. How can they agree?

Son Sanh, the former prime minister of Cambodia, who fled to Paris, has tried to contact Singapore to ask for funds to return and "liberate the nation." But first he is showing his respect as a friend of Sihanouk, who responded with princely disdain.

However, with the understanding of America that Sihanouk can win the confidence of the majority of the Cambodian people, and the fear of the communists by Lee Kuan Yew, who thinks of Thailand as the "buffer" for Singapore and ASEAN, whenever Thailand becomes red, Singapore, which eats Thai rice, will be in trouble.

All press for Sihanouk, Son Sanh, and the Khmer Rouge to come consult together in Singapore.

No sooner will they decide who is the leader and who is the second in rank than they will be in disorder.

We do not understand at all why Khun Prem and Khun Sitthi Sawetsila are willing to have all three Khmer factions consult in Thailand for the overthrow of the Vietnamese Heng Samrin government. Why must they interfere like when the others are going to talk together in Singapore?

Does Khun Prem really think that Sihanouk, Son Sanh and the Khmer Rouge can join together?

Does Khun Prem think that this Khmer union will win against Heng Samrin, who has the backing of Vietnam?

Weapons assistance from outside will cause extended warfare again in Cambodia. Cambodian refugees will increase in horrendous numbers in Thailand again. Can Khun Prem accept them?

The Cambodian people today have the same "qualifications" for fighting as the Thai reserve forces. Will they be able to fight with Vietnamese soldiers in Cambodia?

Or is this done only for "show" to help keep the UN seat for the Khmer Rouge? until they will find a way to force Vietnam to withdraw its troops from Cambodia. It is a big play because they are competing for power.

The thought for today is that the person who thinks himself big in that country is not, others will think the same and are not. People of other nations will see themselves like that.

Two hundred thousand Vietnamese troops are on the Thai border but have not entered. If they should enter, they must fight. The Thai will not withdraw one step.

But why must they meddle to have Thailand the meeting place for consultation on killing other peoples?

Will the world understand that the Thai are on the side of the Khmer Rouge?

Do you remember Khao Phra Wihan?

Do you remember the villages, forests, fields, san ro changan [phonetic] that the Khmer Rouge destroyed completely?

Do you want it to happen again?

9615

CSO: 4207/3

RTG SUPPRESSION SAID TO SPREAD CPT INFLUENCE IN SOUTH

Bangkok SIAM MAI in Thai 26 Sep 81 pp 29-31

[Report by Chatcharin Chaipayat "Fourteen Southern Provinces in Flame of War"]

[Text] Has the lightning strike attack plan of Army Area 4 achieved real results?

The weakness of the Communist terrorists (CT), which Policy 66/1980 defines, is the CT strongposts or permanent camps. Therefore, it specifies an attack plan in steps before it pours in forces in strength to assault the CT camps. In the first step the volunteer units will establish themselves in the white area to conduct psychological operations to attract the masses and to seek information. In the second step they set up units in the pink area collecting intelligence and conducting psychological operations. In the third step when they have the information they send forces from the white area to attack the CT camps and then withdraw rapidly. "Although it is true that we have not had many clashes or inflicted great loss upon the CT, nevertheless what we have captured in those camps has led us to believe that our initial operation was successful. At Camp Khian Sa, which is a large one, we seized several types of guns, rice, and drugs. In some places we captured factories. This shows that we can disrupt or conduct harassing operations with success."

On the contrary what the official forgot to consider was one point: were they able to strike the weakest point of the Thai Liberation Forces in the south in all truth?

While they were on psychological operations in the pink area, the CPT was conducting an orderly withdrawal of its forces from various camps. The troops that seized the camps had to retreat quickly. It was the equivalent of saying that the greatest success was destroying the morale of the CT masses in only certain locations. They have still not destroyed them or won a complete victory over the CT.

In addition, the subsequent conditions will cause a wider spread of the CT influence. For example, in a report an official who referred to the 1967 suppression stated that "Officials who sent suppression forces into the provinces of Phatthalung, Trang, and Songkhla caused the people living in the area under CT influence to evacuate and to stake out claims on land in Satun Province, in great numbers, to continue their livelihood of farming.

This sweep and suppression by officials made the CT in the area flee to Satun Province and intermingle with the people who had previously evacuated into Tambon Khao Khao, Amphoe La Ngu, Tambon Thung Wa, Amphoe Thung Wa, Tambon Nikhom Phatthana, and Tambon Thung Noi, Amphoe Khuan Kalong, Satun Province, living with relatives and neighbors, with whom they had former relationships. At the same time these people brought with them their philosophy and Communist doctrine to disseminate, established cells, and extended their work among the masses in the villages combining political and military activity. It was the beginning of the activities and operations of the CT in Satun Province. It became clearer in 1973 under the control of the 18th Army of the Thai Liberation Forces in Amphoe Pa Lian, Trang Province."

Therefore, attacks for the destruction of certain CT permanent camps or strongholds, as cited above, made the camps located in the mountains disperse their CT forces to work on the plain to a greater extent, as in Ranong Province, Amphoe Kan Tang, Trang Province, Amphoe Chaiya, Surat Thani Province, Krabi Province, and Phuket Province.

In the north they spread to King-amphoe Pha To and established their work in Chumphon Province. In the south they linked up with another group that had a strong operation, cooperating with the Malay Communist Party.

So the attack on CT permanent camps according to Plan 66/1980 was not an attack on the weakest point. The single characteristic of the Communist forces in the south is "the ability to disperse very widely and to rally very quickly in unity." The attack on permanent camps carries out harassment that the CT are aware of. It makes the area of conflict broader than necessary. Official data speaks of the spread of CT forces and the link with the Malaysian Communist Party, which operates in the southern provinces of Thailand, to this effect:

"The relations between the CPT and the Malay communists proceed smoothly and quite firmly since their objective is the same, to overthrow the Thai government which allows Malaysia to send troops to operate in Thailand. Besides, the CPT and the Malaysian communists achieve benefits that are not at variance.

The Malaysian CT want to seize administrative power in Malaysia. They depend on Thailand as a place of asylum to get funds and food in support. The elements that make the two sides cooperate rather closely are the Pao Wo group, Division 12, Area 4 of the Malaysian CT, which sent forces to join with the mixed division of the Thai Liberation Army, located in the south under the leadership of the CPT. With this firm relationship between the CPT and the Malaysian CT both sides agreed on the following.

"- Both sides may operate freely in the area under the influence of each one.

- The Malaysian CT want to collect protection money to support the party but the CPT wants the masses.

- The activities of the Malaysian CT emphasize work in villages that are predominantly Chinese. Thai villages are the region of influence for the CPT."

Making war under Policy 66/1980, which cannot win politically, has a military defect. It cannot find the weakest target for attack. The target that officialdom sought, the permanent camps or strongholds, instead has caused the dispersal of Communist Party strength, thus making officials unable to define the future war area.

Summary paragraph 6 in the document analyzing terrorism in the south under the heading "Results of government's economic situation" states in item 6.3 "The area of CT operations where the suppression must use strong measures is officially declared an insecure district and the people are forbidden to pursue their daily livelihood because the CT use it for their place of concealment, mixing in with the villagers. The suppression force must separate the people from the CT, making their livelihood and investment precarious." At this time the area declared insecure goes deep into Nakhon Si Thammarat Province and Surat Thani Province. After the two bombings of the railway line the Army in Area 4 had to assign units to special duty for internal protection under the strategy "Wanarat Enemy Sweep."

Officers from Army Area 4 stated that the operations of the Separatist Movement are in the four southern provinces of Songkhla, Pattani, Narathiwat, and Yala. There are 68 groups, each group having not more than 10 members. For example, in Yala Province they have 220 people in 24 groups, Pattani 70 persons in 12 groups, in Narathiwat Province 270 persons in 22 groups, in Songkhla Province 50 persons in 10 groups. Their terrorist operations reach an international level.

These groups can provide safety for their members operating with small forces but great political effect, creating great disturbance for the government situation. In comparison the strength of the CT in Surat Thani Province alone is 1,500 persons, while Nakhon Si Thammarat, Trang, Phatthalung, and Satun have many thousands. This force can cause even more serious circumstances. We still cannot anticipate in what way they will act. We know only that they separate into small units, but we cannot yet learn when they will draw together their forces and what they will do later, when we take our forces in large numbers from the rural areas. We do not have provincial police stations as prey for them. While these are the words of Army Area 4 officers, Manit Wallayaphet, governor of Phuket Province, said that the CT have quickly expanded into the whole province.

"Chang Hiu quotes the text on war strategy of Li Ching saying, "In an area that does not give advantage to either side we ought to deceive the enemy by feigning retreat and wait until half the enemy force passes from that area; then attack in ambush."

"Sun Wu War Strategy Text"

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CSO: 4207/3

THAILAND

ORDER DESCRIBES ISOC ROLE

Bangkok TAWAN MAI in Thai 28 Sep 81 pp 14-17

[Text] Order No 66/1980

1. General situation

1.1 The world situation has changed greatly in the recent past, causing crises in almost every region. These crises arise from the basic problems in matters of energy shortages, the differences in the balance of military power of the super powers, and the world divisions in the socialist camp. The general situation has changed to a confrontation in the form of a cold war, which has severe repercussions on the security of Southeast Asia and Thailand.

1.2 The Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) still maintains a steadfast purpose in promoting revolution to seize state power, by using democratic principles and other provisos which they support, manipulating the changing world conditions to their own advantage. They give the highest priority to the establishment of a front at every level to create revolutionary situations and doctrinal conflict. Their main objective is to turn internal disagreements into national warfare. Their rural operations have changed from jungle depending on the jungle to jungle depending on the city, to conform to the policy of building a front. The ideological division in the movement, particularly the doubts about completing the democratic revolution by the proletariat, is the major weakness now.

1.3 The government has the objective of respect for and protection of national institutions, religion, the monarchy, and a democratic system of government, of which the king is the head. The administration is for the good of the people, combining the best national and individual benefits for the Thai, maintaining the principle of correcting economic, political, and social problems with justice and by peaceful means. It will instill in every Thai these ideals, especially giving up selfish advantages for the public interest, reforming the system for efficiency in serving the people in conformity with a democratic rule. The army will have a role. Its important task is to protect the nation and preserve national independence and the democratic government, of which the king is the head. The government considers its main and urgent duty to win the struggle against the Communists, which is the major drain on national security.

2. Objective: to stop completely and quickly the revolutionary war situation of the Communists, which is of the greatest danger to national security.

3. Policy

It is a struggle for complete and speedy victory over the Communists, by continuous political attacks, stressing all operations to oppose and destroy the front and the armed forces to terminate the revolutionary situation. The policy is to stop all action leading to a national war situation through a policy of neutrality and taking advantage of opportunities to change the armed struggle to a struggle along peaceful lines.

4. Operations

4.1 In the fight against the Communists we must act quickly avoiding prolonged operations, which are the objective of the enemy. A speedy victory must come through a political attack, a total operation which makes people consider that this nation is theirs, which they must protect. The people have a part in that they are the rulers and gain the benefits. In the struggle against the Communists the political action is the decisive factor. The military action must support and promote the success of the political activity.

4.2 Eradicate the causes of social injustice at every level, from the regional level to the national level. Prevent and suppress corruption and illegal conduct in government circles absolutely. Get rid of all oppression. Provide safety for the life and property of the people.

4.3 Stimulate activity for cooperation among social classes, the sacrifice of class benefits for the public good. Officials concerned must have an attitude of fairness and understand the problems of each class of the population, considering that the Thai people of every class are patriotic and ready to make sacrifices for the honor of national institutions, religion, the monarchy, and democracy, with the king as the head of state.

4.4 Encourage each group, each occupational branch of the population in their ability to govern themselves and support each in taking part in the political process. Establish methods of learning the problems of the people, realizing that their needs are most important in defining the direction of operations to meet those needs.

4.5 Support the organization of all democratic movements, considering the rights and benefits of those groups. Be cautious and do not confuse democratic groups with the communist movement, which takes shelter by raising democracy as a cover.

4.6 The duty of officials, civilian, police, and military, in the struggle against the Communists involves both the use of armed forces and political operations. The limit and level of operations with armed forces will differ, but the basic political task will be the same in every case. The operation with armed forces requires consideration of the type, size of the force, and tactics suitable for conditions in each area, to crush the armed groups successfully.

4.7 Treatment of the Communist terrorist or those who were misled, who surrender or are captured, should be as compatriots, explaining the policy of the government on this problem clearly to help them use their new life in society properly.

4.8 Give the greatest importance to the struggle in the towns to wipe out the establishment and expansion of the front under the guideline that the town supports the jungle and obstruct the creation of revolutionary conditions or those for national war. The revolutionary situation has the form of isolating the government from the people, weakening the government. The aim is the destruction of usurpation of the leadership of the democracy, which is the enemy of communism. Creating a war situation depends on the front, which infiltrates every level to build public opinion and bring the nation to war with its neighbors, who will support the CPT in a successful revolution. If the CPT succeeds in establishing and expanding the front in the towns, it can limit the political attack, create political confusion, economic disorder, and mass demonstrations. What is needed most in the guideline is the understanding that building the front in the towns is difficult. This can be clearly seen because the CPT will follow its policy of depending on agents in various forms and using circumstances of the moment for general dissention. This is dangerous.

4.9 Information, psychology, and public relations are important measures for successfully combatting communism. They should be conducted in the manner as a basic attack as planned and in conformity with each step of the operation.

5. Administration

5.1 The struggle for victory over the Communists is an important activity for national security. It is the highest responsibility of the government, for ministries, divisions, departments, and various organizations to make plans and implement them in achieving the objectives of this policy.

5.2 The National Security Council is responsible for making proposals to the Cabinet on matters related to this policy.

5.3 The Internal Security Operations Command is the command unit tasked with defense against communist activity. It is responsible for carrying out the policy and giving orders, including the coordination with ministries, divisions, departments, and organizations concerned. It has authority to reward or punish civilian, police, and military officials, and other persons, whom the communist defense command has appointed from other government agencies to do this work.

5.4 Budgetary support in the battle against the Communists is considered urgent as a special case.

5.5 All orders, regulations, or any command which contradicts this order are superseded by this order.

Effective as of this date.

Given on 23 April 1980.

9615

CSO: 4207/3

ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW CAUSES ECONOMIC HARDSHIP, REPEAL ASKED

Bankgkok TAWAN SIAM in Thai 18 Sep 81 pp 1, 2

[Text] The Assistant Secretary to the Minister, the MP from Nakhon Phanom, asked Prem to abrogate the Anti-Communist Act in Nakhon Phanom Province, declaring it caused the economy to deteriorate and the people to be impoverished.

At the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives on the afternoon of 17 September 1981 Wiruan Sitthitham, the Assistant Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and MP from Nakhon Phanom Province, disclosed to the reporter that he sent a letter to Gen Prem Tinsulanon, the Prime Minister, asking for the relaxation of the order of ISOC in Nakhon Phanom Province, which controlled the distribution and movement of necessities, food, drugs, and pharmaceuticals, because this order brought such hardship to the merchants and population that they could not endure it. They sent a letter of complaint to him and he himself was not able to explain the facts to them.

Wiruan further made known that this order was announced on 21 May 1980, citing the current situation, under the authority of the Anti-Communist Act, for the control of almost every item of goods which were essential for the life of the people. The result was that the economy of Nakhon Phanom Province declined to the point where merchants had to close their neighborhood shops, with the inevitable effect on the national economy.

The Assistant Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture criticized the ISOC control saying it contravened the government policy of promoting investment and eradicating poverty. Some types of products under the controls had been ordered by the shops in Nakhon Phanom Province from Bangkok. When they were bought they could not be sold. No one was brash enough to order more for sale, such items as canned food, condensed milk, seasoning powder, various sauces, all kinds of cigarettes, batteries of all kinds, and other things.

Wiruan also said that even preserved fish, salt, candles, soap powder, and matches, as well as many other items were restricted. This should not be. Wiruan gave the example of the preserved fish and salt. When the people had a lot of fish, they wanted to preserve it and had to buy salt in quantity. But the government limited the purchase of salt to two kilograms. When the people in ignorance went to make the purchase they were arrested and the seller was arrested, too. He thinks that this is not right because it is not the policy to use politics to bring military results. Such action is rather the reverse and the effect is that the government cannot win over the people. So the letter of protest was forwarded to Gen Prem, the Prime Minister.

THAILAND

UNION OIL BLAMED FOR NATURAL GAS PROBLEMS

Bangkok PRACHAMIT in Thai 3 Oct 81 pp 26-27

[Text] The brilliant light has begun to show a confused gleam and there comes a poison of which we were unaware, because of the natural gas discovered in the Gulf of Thailand. Electricity cannot be produced as projected on account of the accident of "wet" natural gas or natural gas mixed with more water than normal.

The report made public at this time is not a rumor but a fact. Kmathon Sinthawong, deputy director of the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT), made the disclosure at a reception, stating "The Bang Pakong Power Plant still cannot now produce electricity because the natural gas which it purchases from the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PAT) contains a greater mixture of water than the contract specifies."

The news that the Bang Pakong Plant, in which the government invested 10 billion baht, is dead and cannot produce electricity under the Prem government's "Brilliance" plan has caused consternation among the industrial-military circles.

But before there were observations either adding or detracting the spokesman for PAT, which administers the natural gas program and distributes the gas to EGAT directly, immediately amended the report. Prathin Phatthanaphon, deputy director of PAT discussed the problem that occurred saying "This is a normal occurrence since this is a period of testing the equipment. The natural gas system will be tested for 3 months and this is only the first month."

"Corrections will be made in only 2-3 days to right the situation. The problem is that the Bang Pakong Plant has gas turbines and requires fuel with a low level of water admixture."

"The problem exists only with the Bang Pakong installation. The Phra Nakhon Power Plant can produce electricity normally and on target. There is no problem now." So Prathit explained the situation.

Prathit's view allayed the anxiety of some of EGAT's consumers. At the same time it created a care free attitude in the public which is of concern.

However, according to the natural gas contract signed on 26 March 1981 between Kasem Chatikwanit, director of EGAT, and Thongchat Hongladarom, director of

PAT, a temporary provision specified in the contract in Item 14.1 that "The 3 month period before natural gas service begins is considered a testing time to check the equipment used in gas distribution."

"Afterward if the company that produces natural gas (Union Oil Company), EGAT, and PAT receive and distribute the gas, EGAT agrees to pay for the gas that it received before 1 October 1981 to PAT at the rate of 80 percent of the price set."

For the quality of the gas EGAT agreed with PAT to use the qualifications and conditions for quality in the American Society for Testing and Material Standard D 1070-73.

If the natural gas did not meet these qualifications, according to the contract, Item 7.1.1, EGAT could refuse all or part of the natural gas supply.

Besides, some of the natural gas EGAT received damaged equipment, the direct result of inferior quality gas. PAT agreed to pay the cost of the loss incurred because of failure to meet contract specifications, per month a sum not more than twice the cost of the quantity that PAT sold to EGAT per day.

The pressure under which PAT must send natural gas to the South Bangkok Power Plant is 125 Psig, to Bang Pakong Plant 300 Psig. It is clearly seen that the various details between EGAT, which is a big customer, and PAT, which is the monopoly distributor, have binding conditions. But there remains the problem that the Bang Pakong Plant at a cost of 10 billions has not operated at all since 12 September, although PAT has publicized that it will be fully responsible.

Another error is that of the Union Oil Company, which holds the Erawan Gas Well concession, that has natural gas reserves of 1.8 million cubic feet. This is the cause of the "wet" natural gas.

According to the contract between Pat and the Union Oil Company on 13 July 1979, which Thongchat signed with a representative of Union Oil, it expressly stated that the "concerning the quality of the natural gas sold at the well head to PAT, the Union Oil Company must send natural gas that has a water content of not more than 7 pounds in one million cubic feet."

"The sulphur content must be not more than 1,000 grams in 100 cubic feet of natural gas and carbon dioxide not more than 18 mol. The natural gas must pass the qualification of not less than 950 BTU per cubic foot and not more than 1,150 BTU per cubic foot, with additional conditions on quality for gas at different intervals. In a 3 month period there will be no more than a three percent change."

All this was a special contract on quality of the natural gas which the Union Oil Company would maintain in dealing with PAT.

But beginning on 12 September it violated the contract on the quality of the natural gas because the wet gas had a water content of 8 pounds in one million cubic feet. If it had been used to produce electricity, the Bang Pakong Plant would assuredly have been put out of commission because the gas was poison.

"Until the present the Bang Pakong Plant has been unable to do anything. It is determined to wait for the correction so the quality of the natural gas meets the contractual agreement. The production of electricity must use fuel oil or diesel oil as it did before the present time." So the information source at EGAT disclosed to PRACHAMIT on the problem.

All this happened, as a fact, after 12 September. It is the problem of the natural gas program which one fervently hopes will become bright.

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CSO: 4207/14

'BANGKOK POST' EDITORIAL ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS STRIKE

BK100707 Bangkok POST in English 10 Dec 81 p 4

[Editorial: "A Trust Is Betrayed..."]

[Text] When workers in the vital communications industry pulled the plug on Thailand's contacts with the outside world yesterday they committed an act of gross irresponsibility. The operation of certain state enterprises falls into a category where to jeopardise their effectiveness is to pose a direct threat to both the economic well-being of our country and to its national security. Defence is one such area that must be immune to strike action. Willful interruption of communications networks and postal facilities is another. No demand for better treatment can justify paralysing our international links and creating the climate of confusion which gripped the country last night.

Domestic and overseas telex links were severed, international telephone calls blocked, outgoing and incoming mail deliveries interfered with, news agency teleprinters silenced, radiophoto casts switched off and telegram services disrupted without prior warning. Had the strikers foreseen the possible consequences of their actions they would surely have acted with a greater degree of responsibility towards the country whose continued economic well-being they depend upon if it is to be able to grant them the pay increases and other benefits they demand.

The fact that they chose to stage their action on the eve of a public holiday and as office hours here were ending matters not a whit. Time differences around the world make international commerce a 24-hour-a-day operation. Airlines must telex passenger manifests as flights arrive and depart. Our tourist industry is dependent on international communications being freely available. Banks, finance and trading houses rely on the immediate relay of payment guarantees, currency and share fluctuations. Of especial embarrassment is the timing of this strike, coming as it does while Thailand is playing host to important ASEAN ministers and the many journalists here to cover their deliberations.

What is also involved is our reputation for stability, reasonableness and reliability. Urgent messages relayed by foreign embassies not dependent on normal communication links reassured the outside world last night that Thailand was not, yet again, in the midst of a coup. But this is, at best, cold comfort. Of major concern is not the fact that workers in the communications sector have pay grievances. It is that they felt it necessary to jeopardise so much to gain their objectives.

holding the country to ransom through economic blackmail is no way to win support for a cause that, itself, may well have merits. The law lays down a systematic bargaining and arbitration process to cover just such pay disputes as these and this law is the means by which such dispute must be settled. To flout the law so blatantly is to embark on a road which can lead only to chaos.

The communications workers, responsible this season for delivering so many messages of goodwill, demonstrated precious little of that quality by their wildcat actions of yesterday. The motives of the instigators must now come under very careful scrutiny. And the communications sector be classified as important a national priority as security and defense so that it may be governed by those somewhat stringent rules and never again run up against the wall of confusion it did yesterday.

CSO: 4220/144

'BANGKOK POST' WANTS ASEAN TO LISTEN TO THAI CONCERNS

BK080128 Bangkok POST in English 8 Dec 81 p 4

[Editorial: "A Difference of Emphasis..."]

[Text] The admonition by Philippine Foreign Minister Carlos Romulo that the ASEAN foreign ministers meeting at Phatthaya Thursday must heed what Thailand has to say and consider what it needs before anything else is most timely. This wise warning to his colleagues is based on geopolitical factors. Thailand is a frontline state. Anything that happens to us will have repercussions on all the other members of the regional community.

General Romulo's words should be given careful attention because he saw his country fall to the Japanese and he played no small part in the recovery of Philippine independence and the founding of the United Nations to prevent more wars. Most of all, he does not want an armed conflict to arise in Southeast Asia which not only will threaten the independence of the non-communist countries but also will bring tragic consequences to the peoples of this region.

At the same time General Romulo wishes to ensure that the Kampuchean people are rid of the "illegal, illegitimate, fraudulent" regime imposed upon them by Vietnamese invading forces and have a chance to elect a government of their own choice. He and the other foreign ministers of ASEAN will have to consider measures to bring this about.

The Philippine foreign minister has declined to openly comment on the "Singapore proposal," only noting that "a loose coalition government, no matter how loose, is very important." He preferred to wait until he had consulted with our Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila to find out the Thai position.

While basically Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmadja supports the idea of a "loose coalition government," he is at variance with the reported Singapore suggestion that ASEAN as an organisation supply arms to the non-communist factions to fight the Vietnamese occupation troops. If the suggestion is adopted, some of the ASEAN foreign ministers reportedly feel, it could be considered a "provocative act" by the Vietnamese who could then use it as an excuse to make an attack, probably against Thailand. That is why the Philippine attitude that Thailand's position on such matters should receive prior consideration is so vital not only to the security of Thailand but also to the peace of Southeast Asia.

CS0: 4220/144

NEW MONETARY 'BARRIER' TO PROTECT INTEREST RATES

BK270438 Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 27 Nov 81 pp 1, 14

[Text] Thailand is prepared to set up a "barrier" against the world monetary system to avoid the impact of rapid changes of foreign interest rates which has seriously affected the country's economy this year, a senior official of the Bank of Thailand said yesterday.

The barrier has been conceived from a realization that Thailand, with its "open economy," cannot independently determine domestic interest rates, because they have to move along with world interest rates, said director of the central bank governor's office Dr Suphachai Phanitchaphak.

"Therefore, we will set up a barrier next year to protect us from the impact of foreign interest rate movements," he said at the Securities Exchange of Thailand.

The measures, regarded as "Autarkic"--a policy of establishing national economic self-sufficiency--to be implemented next year include adjustment of repurchase market, setting up of discount house and regulations for commercial banks to issue certificate of deposits, Dr Suphachai said.

"Firstly, state enterprises and government agencies will be asked to borrow from local financial sources instead of foreign loans. This is a means to keep ourselves out of the world monetary system," he explained.

Currently, many state enterprises prefer to seek foreign loans for exchange with baht when they don't have enough baht. The country then has to carry a burden unnecessarily in the form of high interest rates up to 17-18 percent. And this gives way to interest rates to have strong influence on the country's monetary system, Dr Suphachai said.

Though there will not be a law to require state enterprises to borrow from local sources, the government has set up a body called "Committee on Debt Appraisal" to consider applications for foreign loans by state enterprises and government agencies, he said.

"If this means of persuasion fails, the committee, chaired by the finance minister, will not approve a proposal of such a state enterprise to seek foreign loans," he said.

State enterprises prefer to borrow from abroad when they cannot obtain funds from budget allocations, because foreign borrowings are not tied with government budget appropriations.

The Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand is the first state enterprise which will borrow from local sources. The first amount is 500 million baht.

"When the committee does not approve foreign borrowings by state enterprises, they will turn to seek loans from local sources," Dr Suphachai said.

The Bank of Thailand will be the major institution to mobilize domestic savings and funds for lendings, and can implement this by means of increasing interest rates on deposits, he said.

The Central Bank can also obtain loans from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund at low interest rates, he said.

Dr Suphachai said the Central Bank next year will receive U.S.\$1,000 million from IMF reserves and borrow under "standby revolving credit facility" with a limit of U.S.\$250-300 million.

He said that the U.S. interest rates will go up again next year due to heavy budget deficits of the U.S. Government. And this will lend serious impact on the world economy similar to this year.

"Though the U.S. prime rate can drop to 12 percent during the first quarter of next year, it will shoot up to 14-15 percent in the second quarter and higher in the third and last quarter," he predicts.

"Moreover, the U.S. Administration is preventing more appreciation of U.S. dollar. So it has been predicted that the U.S. dollar will depreciate by five or six percent while the value of yen and Deutsche mark will rise by 10 percent," he said.

Dr Suphachai affirmed that there would not be further devaluation of baht.

CSO: 4220/143

THAI PAPER ON AUSTRIAN ARMS SALES EFFORTS

BK100547 Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 10 Dec 81 p 2

[Article by Sutthichai Yun]

[Text] Vienna, Austria--"I am not supposed to officially know anything about it," said a senior official of the Federal Economic Chamber here. He is in charge of promoting trade with the Asian countries--and, of course, he knows very well that Austria has been trying very hard in the past few years to sell military equipment, including tanks, rifles and military trucks produced by Austria's Steyr chain of companies, to Thailand.

"We have tried to approach the Thai military since 1978 but the Thai side seems so far not ready to switch over from the Americans," an Austrian diplomat knowledgeable about this move told the NATION here last week.

The diplomat said that senior Thai military officers who had tested the weapons here all had high praise for Austria's tank, the "Kurassier" and AUG (Army Universal Gun) rifles and automatic pistols. But the Thai Government, preferring to stick to the American Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programme for the acquisition of arms, has so far refused to tilt.

Unlike the West German Government, which is prohibited by its constitution to sell heavy military weapons outside its NATO allies, Austria appears eager to go out and sell its own military hardware.

Informed sources here said that former Austrian ambassador to Bangkok, Dr Karl Peterlik, commenced the approach on the matter as early as 1978 during the Kriangsak government.

Peterlik, who is now head of the press and information department of the Austrian Foreign Affairs Ministry after his 5-year tenure in Thailand, was said to have personally discussed the matter with Gen Prem Tinsulanon in all his three capacities, first as then army commander-in-chief, then as defence minister and prime minister.

Several army missions have been sent to Austria to test out the weapons here. "They all said they liked the quality of our weapons but a decision for change has yet to be made," the sources said.

The matter could well be touchy for domestic politics here although Thailand is /not/ [slantlines denote boldface as published] considered a "crisis region nation" which would have disqualified a nation from buying arms from this country.

Last year, a large deal involving about 2,000 Austrian tanks to Chile was cancelled after a public demonstration against the move. The protestors in Vienna claimed that the Chilean military junta could use the weapons against their own people. Some of the tanks however were sold to Argentina.

West Germany, meanwhile, has cleared a Thai request for a warship bidding deal to be participated by a German firm. It has also sold some military-related communications equipment to Thailand.

One exception has been the granting of licency by a well-known German arms-manufacturing firm for the Thai army to produce HK-33 rifles.

Austria's Steyr group of companies produce a large variety of military equipments including armoured personnel carriers, battle tanks, armoured recovery vehicles and combat engineering tanks.

"Thailand has been using the American M-41 and M-48A5 tanks for quite some time. So, they are used to them and the spares are easy to come by. While the Austrian tanks may not be all that much more expensive, the credit terms are offered only on a commercial basis, and not on concessionary basis like that of the U.S.," a well-informed source said here.

Austrian diplomats said Malaysia had bought some Austrian army trucks while Indonesia has expressed interest in its range of military hardware.

"We will certainly continue to negotiate with Thailand in case the Thai authorities consider our offer attractive enough one day," said a senior Austrian official.

CSO: 4220/143

BRIEFS

FLIGHT SERVICES WITH SAUDI ARABIA--Bangkok 18 Nov (AFP)--Thailand and Saudi Arabia are to double flight services to meet mounting demands, Thai officials said here today. Under a draft agreement initialled here yesterday, the two countries' flag carriers, currently operating between three to four flights per week will step up their services to seven flights per week. Thai International (THAI) flies to Dhahran while its Saudi Arabian counterpart flies to Bangkok. The draft agreement was initialled by Thai Under Secretary of State for Communications Choengchan Kamphu and President of the Saudi Arabian Civil Aviation Shaykh Nasir. An estimated 60,000 Thai workers are in the oil-rich Gulf state, host to the largest concentration of some 150,000 Thais said to be earning in the Middle East. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 0548 GMT 18 Nov 81]

CRUDE OIL EXPLORATION INVESTMENT--Bangkok, 30 Oct (ANTARA/TNA)--The Shell Exploration Co., has decided to increase additional 1,000 million baht (U.S. \$43.48 million) investment to drill three more wells in Lankrabue District of Kamphaeng Phet Province (384 km north of Bangkok) in order to explore for crude oil and natural gas, said Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Thanat Khoman. Dr. Thanat said the company has already invested 600 million baht (U.S.\$26.09 million) in searching for oil and natural gas deposits in the area. Dr. Thanat, who recently returned from his observation tour of the company's oil exploration activities at Lankrabue, said Shell has struck an oil deposit with the estimated flow of 200 barrels of oil a day at a drilling site at the depth of 1,850 meters. The company will intensify its searching efforts in the area, he said. From his observation tour, he said he was satisfied with the performance of the Shell Exploration Co., in its oil exploration in the area. [Text] [Jakarta OANA in English 0822 GMT 30 Oct 81 BK]

CREDIT TO THAILAND--Tokyo, 7 Nov KYODO--Japan said Saturday it would extend yen 15 billion (\$65.21 million) in credits to Thailand for a natural gas separation project. The loan, bearing an annual interest of 4.25 percent and repayable over a period of 30 years, including a 10-year grace period, is part of the yen credit in fiscal 1981 to that country, an announcement said. It is being extended to comply with a request from visiting Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon to Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki to extend a \$200 million for the project. The remaining yen 31 billion (\$134.78 million) will be financed by the governmental Export-Import Bank of Japan. Thailand needs \$320 million for the separation of natural gas from the Bay of Siam into ethane and natural gasoline for household and auto fuels. Japan has so far extended loans totaling yen 281.3 million (\$1.22 billion to Thailand in nine installments. The loans amounted to yen 55 billion (\$239 million) in fiscal 1980 which ended last April. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0203 GMT 7 Nov 81 OW]

JAPANESE AID FOR REFUGEES--Bangkok, 30 Oct (AFP)--Japan today donated \$2.6 million to the UN world food programme to buy canned fish for Indochinese refugees and displaced Thai villagers, the United Nations announced. In the past 2 years Japan has donated a total of 1.6 billion yen to Thailand to help feed the refugees, the Japanese Embassy said. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1311 GMT 30 Oct 81 BK]

AIRCRAFT PURCHASE--The government is reported to have agreed to the purchase of 20 Australian-built Nomad aircraft for its air force. A senior Thai Air Force official said the cabinet has cleared the Nomad deal and that a contract will probably be signed with the Australian distributor of the aircraft later this month. Radio Australia's Bangkok correspondent said the 20 Nomads with spare parts and backup service would probably cost Thailand more than \$30 million. He said Thailand intends to fit some of the planes with guns for possible use in its operations against communist insurgents. The others will be used purely as military aircraft. [BK211229 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Aug 81]

TUNGSTEN BUFFER STOCK PLAN--Thailand is willing to join a move to set up an international buffer stock for tungsten so that the price of the commodity will be stable. This came after a meeting between President of the International Tungsten Producers Association Carlos E. Turralde and Deputy Industry Minister Dr Chirayu Isarangkun na Ayutthaya, on Wednesday. Official sources said the move was aimed at organizing producers and consumers of tungsten to set up an international buffer stock for controlling the world tungsten trade and consecutively stabilizing its price. Turralde, sources said, told Dr Chirayu that the association has not been receiving good cooperation from tungsten consumer countries. Turralde, who is Bolivian, will visit China and convince that country to join the move because it is a leading tungsten producer in the world. Major tungsten producers include Australia, Bolivia, North Korea, China, United States, Canada, Portugal and Thailand. Thailand produces about 2,661 tons of tungsten ores annually while the total production of tungsten metal worldwide amounted to 46,343 tons last year. [Excerpt] [BK200354 Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 20 Nov 81 p 9]

SRV WEAPONS SALE TO U.S.--[Unsigned article: "Vietnam Sells Weapons"]--The agents involved in weapons sales in Thailand are all excited. It is not that the Thai armed forces are ordering a new round of weapons purchases which would result in payments to agents, but rather it is the strangest sale of weapons in the world. A major weapons dealer, the United States, is preparing to purchase weapons from Vietnam, its former enemy. These weapons were those of the U.S. itself which it had given to South Vietnam. Now these have fallen into the hands of the Hanoi Government. There are sufficient reports to provide examples: 550 M48 and M41 tanks, 1,200 APCs, 1,330 100 and 115 mm artillery pieces, two destroyers, two patrol boats, 42 armed riverine patrol boats and an unknown number of amphibious craft, combat support boats, small arms, artillery pieces, patrol aircraft, fighter planes and cargo planes. Vietnam is currently using some of this materiel for military purposes, but most of it has been simply abandoned because they have no personnel or funds to maintain it. Significantly, Vietnam is faced with a severe shortage of money. Former Prime Minister Gen Kriangsak Chamanan has been approached to purchase these weapons, acting as the middleman for the United States so it can resell the weapons to its own Third World clients. [Text] [Bangkok SIAM MAI in Thai 5 Dec 81 p 1]

INTERNATIONAL TIN AGREEMENT DECISION--Thailand has decided to join the 6th international tin agreement starting from July next year. The decision was made during the weekly cabinet meeting. The 6th international tin agreement will last 5 years. Foreign Ministry officials will sign the agreement at the United Nations office in New York. The cabinet has agreed to set up a committee to find out sources of loan to be contributed to the tin buffer stock. At present Thailand has to contribute 280 million baht to the tin buffer stock. The amount is calculated from the percentage of tin production which Thailand has about 19 percent of total world tin output. [Text] [BK051211 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1100 GMT 5 Dec 81]

UK FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT ASEAN--At the invitation of the ASEAN foreign ministers, the Right Honorable Lord Carrington, secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs of Great Britain, will pay an official visit to Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore between 28 January 10 February next year. Accompanying him will be a small group of businessmen. He will spend a brief day in the capital cities of ASEAN countries starting from Jakarta, to Manila, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. The purpose of the visit to Thailand is to exchange views between the secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs and the foreign minister on bilateral relations as well as other issues of mutual interests and concern. [Text] [BK111040 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 11 Dec 81]

NATURAL GAS STRIKE--A new deposit of natural gas has been found in the Gulf of Thailand by the Union Oil of Thailand, an affiliate of the Union Oil of California. The company said that natural gas at this new well can be pumped out at the rate of over 10 million cubic feet per day. The company can also pump out condensate at the rate of over 400 barrels per day. [Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 5 Nov 81 BK]

SRV REFUGEES--Siracha, Chon Buri--A group of 43 Vietnamese refugees arrived here on Friday [6 November] on board a crude oil freighter, the Tonovania, now anchored one kilometre off the Thai Oil Refinery Company [TORC] depot, police said yesterday. The boat people, including 17 children, said they left Ha Tiang in South Vietnam on November 1 and were picked up at sea by the Tonovania which was on its way to TORC's depot with crude from Scotland. Skipper of the freighter, Mr Edward S. Karie, told Thai authorities that the Vietnamese were rescued as their small and crowded boat was about to sink. Siracha police said that the refugees would not be allowed on shore until permission was granted by the Interior Ministry. Meanwhile, Surat Thani Deputy Governor Chaloen Promloet yesterday reported that a total of 109 Vietnamese refugees landed at Koh Samui and Kophangan islands last week. He said 79 refugees destroyed their boat after landing at Ko Samui's inlet--and another 30 came ashore on November 3 at Kophangan with a badly damaged boat. Authorities were preparing to send them to Songkhla for detention he added. [BK081215 Bangkok POST in English 8 Nov 81 p 3]

GOVERNMENT REVENUE, EXPENDITURE--The government revenue during the last fiscal year ending September 1981 totalled 124,998.5 million baht--17,967.1 million baht or 23 percent higher than the collection made during the preceding fiscal year, the

Finance Ministry said yesterday. Of the total collected during last fiscal year, 110,424.7 million baht came from taxes and income while the remaining 14,573.8 million baht came from borrowings. On the other side the government expenditure during 1981 fiscal year totalled 117,524.9 million baht of which 114,145.8 million baht was spent for administration work and the remaining 3,379.1 million baht as a repayment for loans. The net borrowing of the government hence stood at 11,194.7 million baht. [Excerpt] [BK121249 Bangkok POST in English 10 Nov 81 p 23]

IRAN TOP RICE BUYER--Iran has now replaced the Soviet Union as the largest single buyer of Thai rice, having bought some 349,712.85 tons worth about 2,800 million baht during the first 9 months of this year, it was reported. However, there are some doubts as to whether all the rice purchased by international brokers and said to be for Iran did actually end up in Iran. Local exporters who have been given no definite information on the end purchaser said that although the brokers said the rice was for Iran, part of it might have been sold to Iraq, as both countries buy the same type--second class 100 percent white rice. The USSR, which was the largest buyer of Thai rice earlier this year, now ranks second with purchases amounting to some 257,777 tons worth about 1,500 million baht in the January-September period. Iran's purchases of rice from Thailand during this period accounted for 13.57 percent of this country's total rice exports, while the USSR account for about 10 percent. African countries, numbering over 20, purchased a total of 412,510.93 tons of rice from Thailand in the first 9 months of this year. This accounts for about 16 percent of the country's rice exports. [Text] [BK190547 Bangkok POST in English 19 Nov 81 p 17]

TANKS FROM EUROPE--The Royal Thai Army is contemplating buying new European light tanks which are more suitable for Thai terrain, Army Chief of Staff General Pramot Thawonchan said yesterday. He said that the 150 U.S. made M 48-A5 tanks, about 50 of which have been delivered to Thailand under the foreign military sale programme, had proved to be unsuitable for the terrain at the eastern border, as their weight caused them to get stuck in the soft ground. He added that the larger and more expensive M60 tanks offered to Thailand in lieu of M48-A5 tanks which are now out of production are also inappropriate for use in this country. Gen Pramot indicated that the RTA would not like to get the rest of the M48-A5 tanks which are yet to be delivered, but preferred the lighter and more manoeuvrable M41 tanks, which unfortunately are out of production. He said that if the RTA needs more tanks, it might have to turn to European countries such as Britain or West Germany for lighter tanks. However, he said, the issue is yet to be finalised. General Pramot said that the army had already withdrawn most of the M48-A5 tanks from the eastern frontier. [Text] [BK260316 Bangkok POST in English 26 Nov 81 p 1]

AGRICULTURAL COUNSELLOR TO WASHINGTON--The Thai Government plans to appoint an agricultural counsellor to Washington in order to keep abreast with developments in international markets with regards to agricultural commodities. There is a necessity for having such an official in Washington, for the United States is a large supplier of agricultural commodities in the world market and whatever it does affects Thailand. Besides, Thailand and the United States have a dialogue each year on agricultural matters, but without an agricultural official based in Washington a followup is not always possible. The cabinet last week requested the Foreign Affairs Ministry and the Office of the Civil Service Commission to further study this matter before giving its official approval. [Text] [BK281307 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1100 GMT 28 Nov 81]

DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH NIGER--The cabinet at its weekly session yesterday approved in principle a proposal by the Foreign Affairs Ministry to establish diplomatic relations between Thailand and Niger--an Islamic African country. The proposal was made in line with the government's policy to promote and extend close relationship between Thailand and other African countries, particularly the French-speaking ones. The establishment of such relations will also create and cement better understanding between both countries. The ministry will bring this matter to the country during the 13th meeting of the ministers of Islamic countries to be held in Niger next year. [Text] [BK190317 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1100 GMT 18 Nov 81]

JAPANESE GRANT--The Japanese Government is willing to provide a 20 million baht grant to the Agriculture Ministry to set up a plant quarantine center in order to promote the export of Thai fruits to the Japanese markets. The undersecretary for the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives said that an agreement on the grant will be signed by Agriculture Minister Dr Anat Aphaphirom during his visit to Japan with Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon during 4-10 November. [BK051119 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1100 GMT 4 Nov 81]

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BRIEFS

FRENCH, UK AID--Port Moresby, 9 Dec (AFP)--France will provide U.S.\$4.3 million aid to Vanuatu for health and education, while the other former condominium power, Britain, will provide a similar amount in budget aid, Prime Minister Walter Lini announced today. He said the project aid from the two countries has still to be negotiated. His announcement follows a visit to Paris and London last month. "Vanuatu looks forward with confidence" to a renewed aid program from France next year, Mr Lini said. [Text] [BK091513 Hong Kong AFP in English 0120 GMT 9 Dec 81]

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